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Rimi dies after encounter with robbers

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

TRAGEDY struck in Kano late last night when the Second Republic governor of Kano State and one of Nigeria's best known politicians, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, died of complications from high blood pressure an hour after he had an encounter with armed robbers. He died just before midnight at the Malam Aminu Kano University Teaching Hospital, Kano. He was 69.

Rimi's son Alhaji Nura Abubakar Rimi told *Daily Trust* last night that the funeral prayers for his late father would be held at 12 noon today. He said even though his father had an encounter with armed robbers, he apparently died of a heart attack and was not shot or beaten by the robbers.

Daily Trust learnt from family sources that Rimi was on his way back to Kano from Bauchi when he encountered the armed robbers at Garki village in Wudil Local Government Area of Kano State at about 10pm last night. According to the family member, Rimi and his three-man entourage, which included his driver, his police orderly and his brother, Alhaji Sule Sa'a, went to Bauchi from Kano late on Friday to attend the turbaning ceremony of the new Sarkin Dass, Alhaji Othman Bilyaminu Usman.

After attending the ceremony on Saturday, he said, Rimi and his entourage travelled back to Bauchi and spent the night. Very late in the afternoon yesterday, they decided to leave Bauchi and return to Kano. The family member said Sarkin Nasarawa Dr. Hassan Ahmed II urged Rimi to wait until Monday morning, but the late politician insisted on returning to Kano yesterday.

At about 10pm, travelling in a Jeep, they were stopped at Garki village, very close to Kano, by a gang of armed robbers, who took away all their money and telephones. The robbers, who set up their

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THE Late Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi

Iwu quits this week

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PROFESSOR Maurice Iwu's controversial five-year tenure as Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission [INEC] will come to an end when he leaves office this week and the Presidency has indicated that it does not intend to reappoint him for a second term, a top government official said in Abuja last night.

The source said already, the Presidency has begun compiling the names and CVs of competent and credible persons who could be appointed to Iwu's chair in order to lay the foundation for credible elections next year. He however indicated that no decision has been arrived at yet over Iwu's successor.

Last week, some youths staged a demonstration in Abuja urging the government to reappoint Iwu, who they said is the best person to deliver credible polls in Nigeria. However, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) together with several human rights and civil society groups staged a large counter demonstration urging the government to quickly sack Iwu.

Professor Iwu was appointed to a five-year term by the Obasanjo regime in 2005. Under him, INEC conducted the 2007 general and presidential elections, unanimously condemned by local and foreign observers as the worst in the world's history.

According to the senior official, reforming this country's electoral system is one of the three-point agenda that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan **Continued on page 5**

Jos crisis: Shonekan advises Yoruba against reprisal attack

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

CHIEF Ernest Shonekan, former Head of Interim National Government, has cautioned Yoruba people against reprisals over the killings and losses they suffered in the Jos crises. Shonekan said in a statement to the President-General of Yoruba Community in Plateau, Mr Toye Ogunshuyi, on Saturday, that vengeance was not the solution to the crises. He said security was a national problem and that

good people, irrespective of tribal, geographical, religious and political affiliations, know that violence does not do anyone any good.

"No one has the monopoly of violence and reprisal attack does not resolve conflicts but only increase the tragic consequences. Yoruba is one of the major tribes in the country that cherishes peaceful co-existence, justice and hard work, and their conducts in Plateau should not be an exception," he said.

The Former Head of State said all patriotic Nigerians should condemn violence and bloodshed, stressing that what was happening in Plateau was "wicked, barbaric, demeaning and ungodly" He said the Yorubas should not join the bandwagon of evil-minded people. Shonekan praised Acting President Goodluck Jonathan for listening to the demands of the Yoruba by ensuring that all stakeholders were included as members of the Presidential Advisory

Committee on the Jos Crises. He said an all-inclusive stakeholders committee was needed in order for the people to listen to one another's grievances for a possible solution to the persistent crisis. Meanwhile, the President-General of the Yoruba Community in Plateau, Mr Toye Ogunshuyi, has said that the community lost 156 of its members and property worth N2.5 billion during the November 2008 and January 2010 Jos crises. Ogunshuyi listed those killed to

include students and youth corps members and appealed to both the Federal and Plateau Governments to punish the perpetrators of the acts in order to guard against re-occurrence. He said the Yorubas had suffered oppression, humiliation and retardation in their businesses and careers as a result of the crisis. Ogunshuyi, therefore, called on the government to adequately compensate all the victims of the crisis, irrespective of tribal, religious or political affiliations.



PIC: NAN

MOST Reverend Joseph Akinfenwa, Anglican Bishop of Ibadan Diocese, leading a procession for the Easter Sunday service at the Anglican Church Cathedral, Oke Bola, Ibadan yesterday.

Five robbers killed in Bayelsa

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt & Misbahu Bashir, Abuja

FIVE persons have been confirmed dead by the Bayelsa State Police Command in the wake of the local government elections that took place Saturday at Ekeremor in Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

According to the state Commissioner of Police Elder Onuoha Udeka, the deaths were not connected with the elections. He said days before the election, the police

arrested a member of a notorious armed robbery gang that robbed a bank at Amassoma.

"It was this person in our custody that gave us information about these five that were killed. The armed robbers have been terrorizing communities in Ekeremor for a very long time, so people in the area ambushed them on Saturday as they were coming from Bomadi in Delta State and succeeded in killing them after an exchange of fire," he said.

The villagers in Ekeremor also set ablaze a speedboat suspected to

belong to the armed robbers.

The commissioner gave the names of the dead robbers as Christain Sunday, their leader, Opena, Esimokumor, Godsgift Royal and Okuwasi Obale.

The commissioner insisted that the incident took place one and half hour before the election materials arrived the Ekeremor community.

The Police Force Public Relations ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu when contacted yesterday could not say if the alleged robbers had anything to do with the local council polls.

Mega Party to be launched under new name

By Abbas Jimoh

THE proponents of the Mega Party, The Mega Summit Movement (MSM) yesterday said the mega party would be formally launched April 28, but under a new name, the Social Democratic Mega Party.

MSM head of secretariat and secretary of the harmonization committee of the group, Olawale Okunniyi, said yesterday in Lagos that the new party was established in consultation with the Labour Movement towards providing a formidable alternative in the 2011 elections.

He said the new formation is an ingenious way to solidify opposition forces, which according to him came under serious pressure from reactionary forces recently.

"Just as the organized labour was the catalyst and main stay of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) of old, the new SDP of the mega party momentum has received great impetus from the Labour Movement, whose leadership specifically requested at the last meeting to align with the new platform at various levels through its political commissions," Okunniyi said.

He said the leaders of the mega movement and other allies in the political group were expected to endorse a deferred Memorandum of Understand-

ing, initiated at the last meeting at the forthcoming national summit on April 28, when the party will be launched.

He added that while some of the leading political parties in the country had agreed to fuse into the SDP, others had decided for the time being to go into a patriotic alliance with the newly formed mega party for the purpose of presenting one presidential candidate in the 2011 elections.

He said the party will in the meantime operate two levels of membership, direct membership and parties/ group alliance.

He said, "Some of the leaders who have so far opted for direct membership of the party include; Prof Pat Utomi, Protem National Chairman, Chief Olu Falae, Chief Audu Ogbah, Group Captain Sam Ewang Rtd, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, Chief Ayo Adebajo, Dr Bala Takaya, Chief Echukwu, Chief Robson Momoh, Comrade SOZ Ejiofoh, Mr Wale Okunniyi, Alhaji Ahmed Yusuf among other stalwarts of Labour and the Mega Movement, while Alhaji Balarabe Musa leads the pack of those who prefer to work in alliance with the mega party"

He said a full list of Protem Officers will be officially released by the party next week to enable the party prepare for the summit.

I opposed Tapgun's nomination as minister in the interest of Plateau –Gogwim

From Andrew Agbese, jos

THE senator representing Plateau Central Senatorial district, Satty Gogwim, has explained why he opposed the confirmation of Josephine Tapgun as minister. In an interview with our correspondent at the weekend, Gogwim said his opposition to Tapgun's nomination was not on personal grounds, but to ensure that the zoning principle in the state was respected and maintained. He maintained that he did it in the interest of Plateau.

The senator said since the governor and the deputy governor of the state are from the two other zones in the state and that it was expected that the ministerial slot be given to the central zone.

The senator had protested the confirmation of Tapgun on the floor of the Senate on the ground that she hails from a zone that had produced two previous ministers for the state, but his objection was overruled by Senate president David Mark.

Gogwim said it was unfortunate that a lot of people mis-

understood his position on the matter. "As far as I am concerned, Sections 147 (1) and 93 give powers to the president to appoint any person of his choice as a minister, subject to the confirmation of the Senate. But it has to be done with the support of Section 14 (3) such that no ethnic or religious group is undermined. We have a tradition of political zoning on the Plateau. The governor is from Plateau North, the deputy governor is from Plateau South and they gave us the ministerial slot. All

of a sudden, they took it back to the Southern zone. I don't have anything against Tapgun as a person, but the system has to work in such a way that no one is marginalized. My position is that if Tapgun has to be there, then Plateau should be given two ministerial slots. So if Hirse does not return, then another person should be given a chance from the Central zone," he said.

Elders of the Peoples Democratic Party in the southern senatorial part of Plateau had earlier condemned Gogwim's objection

to the confirmation of Josephine Tapgun as minister, saying it was an embarrassment to the state. The elders in a statement by Abraham Kumsha, said Gogwim is a "bench warmer senator, who has not contributed meaningfully to debates on the floor of the senate."

The elders wondered why a retired military officer like Gogwim, who should be protecting women and children was the one, who opposed the woman's nomination. They also commended Senate President David Mark for ruling Gogwim out of order.

Jonathan to meet Obama April 12

Nasiru L. Abubakar with agency report

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan will visit the United States of America on April 12-13 for the Nuclear Security Summit on the invitation of President Barack Obama.

Acting President Jonathan was earlier expected to visit the US on April 7.

The nuclear summit is being

promoted by President Obama and will attract over 40 heads of state in Washington.

The summit will take place just days after the US and Russia are scheduled to sign a new start treaty to reduce their nuclear weapons stockpiles.

The two-day summit would not be country-specific but would be aimed at eliminating clandestine proliferation and trafficking in nuclear weapons and material.

However, Iran and North Korea, accused of planning to build nuclear weapons have not been invited to the summit.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria-U.S. Bi-National Commission (BNC) agreement to improve bilateral relations in four key areas will be launched on Tuesday in Washington D.C.

Sources close to the Nigerian Embassy in Washington D.C and the U.S. State Department con-

firmed to NAN that the U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Yayale Ahmed, will sign the agreement on April 6.

The event, which was earlier scheduled for April 7, was rescheduled to April 6 due to administrative reasons, the sources said. Last week, in his maiden news conference with reporters in Washington D.C., the new Nigerian Ambassador to the

U.S., Prof. Ade Adefuye, described the agreement as a major step forward for the country.

Adefuye noted that the signing of the agreement was coming few days to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's historic visit to U.S.

Clinton and the former Minister of Foreign Affairs Ojo Madueke held discussions on how to forge a new partnership under the BNC.



PIC: SUNDAY WILLIAMS

Kaduna State Governor Namadi Sambo (left), his deputy Mr. Patrick Yakowa (right) with the hunter dance group during this year's Tuk-Hau cultural festival in Kwori Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Ogun commissioner says Bankole neglects base

By Muideen Olaniyi

A Chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ogun State and the state commissioner for Works Otunba Segun Adekoya yesterday said Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole had neglected his ward since assuming his current position.

Adekoya told journalists in Abuja after receiving award as the best overall performing commissioner nationwide that Bankole might be moving towards "political Siberia" if he did not go back to his people at the grassroots.

He said: "I am beginning to wonder when last he actually visited his ward and do not forget that for him to come back he will first go for primaries in his ward in Ogun State and not in Abuja."

He added: "Bankole to me was so close, I see him as another human being that changes too often, I must confess.

The first year of Bankole in this Abuja he puts on this cap (the black cap that is synonymous with Governor Gbenga Daniel of Ogun state), but all of a sudden when he became Speaker he changed.

"Where is Anyim Pius Anyim today, where is Masari today, where is Ghali Na Abba today, is Bankole more flamboyant than Na Abba. These are people that during their time they go along with two or three lorry loads of anti-riot policemen.

But they forgot that party primaries and elections belongs to the grassroots and where are they today", he asked. He however advised all political aspirants in Nigeria to be ready for a tough time from the electorates whom, he said, have now appreciated the value of the mandate that belongs to them.

Bankole might be moving towards "political Siberia" if he does not go back to his people at the grassroots

Emir of Uba dies at 74

From Isa Umar Gusau and Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Emir of Uba, His Royal Highness (HRH) Alhaji Ismaila Mamza died yesterday at the age of 74. He died in Abuja shortly after he was flown in from London where he had been receiving medical treatment for an undisclosed ailment.

The royal father who had been on the throne since 1972 was initially admitted at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) before he was later flown out of the country.

A press statement issued by

the Borno State government and signed by the Secretary to the State Government Ambassador Baba Ahmed Jidda described the death of the late emir as "A great loss not only to Borno, but Nigeria as a whole." Acknowledging his immense contribution to the unity and development of the state, the Borno State government described the late royal father as "an embodiment of peace" who will be greatly missed.

Ambassador Jidda expressed condolences to the Uba Emirate Council, the families of the deceased, the people of Uba and the entire people of Borno State.

CAN condemns Imams' visit to Yar'adua

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CHRISTIAN Association of Nigeria (CAN) yesterday condemned the visit to the ailing president Umaru Musa Yar'adua by four Muslim clerics led by the Chief Imam of Abuja National Mosque Sheikh Musa Muhammad.

The spokesperson of the association Reverend Sam Kujiyat, Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Kaduna, said the clerics who went to the villa to see the ailing Nigerian leader have politicised the issues at stake.

Speaking on BBC Hausa service monitored in Abuja, Rever-

end Kujiyat said Christian leaders should have been included in the visit, adding that the statements by the different scholars after the visit gave the impression that the president's health is being regionalised with religious sentiment.

President-General of Supreme Council of Sharia in Nigeria Dr. Ibrahim Datti Ahmad, Sheikh Isa Aliyu Pantami of Bauchi State and the Leader of Izalatul Bidi'a wa'ikamul Sunnah from Katsina Sheikh Yakubu Musa Katsina and the Chief Imam of Abuja Sheikh Musa Muhammad met with President Yar'adua on Thursday. The clerics said they visited the ailing leader to ascertain his true state of health.

3rd Lagos Black Heritage Festival



EYO masquerades from Lagos entertaining guests at the 3rd Lagos Black Heritage festival at Lagoon Restaurant, Lagos.



MASQUERADE on fire.



ORIADE masquerades from Oyo, Oyo State.



IKAO masquerades from Edo State.

Nigeria says it will not close Embassy in Libya

NIGERIA will not close its embassy in Libya in spite of the recent call by Libyan Leader Muammar Gaddafi for the division of the country, Dr Martins Uhomoibhi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has said.

The Federal Government recently recalled its Ambassador to Libya Alhaji Isa Muhammed for consultations over Gaddafi's comments.

The Presidential Advisory Committee headed by Chief Emeka Anyaoku had recommended in 2009 that 10 of the

120 country's missions be closed.

Anyaoku said the decision to shut the missions was contained in the committee's report already presented to the government.

He added that the decision was meant to reduce cost but did not mention the affected countries.

However, Uhomoibhi said on Sunday in Abuja: "I am not aware that Libyan Embassy is one of the embassies recommended to be closed."

"I would not think so at this stage, I think that it is not even clear the missions to be affected."

"The envoy recalled that the former Minister Ojo Maduekwe during his handing over, stated that the issue was being looked into by the officials of the ministry to know which mission would be affected.

The Permanent Secretary said: "Libyan Government has an embassy in Abuja and so does Nigeria in Tripoli."

On the claim of closure of the Libyan Embassy in Abuja, Uhomoibhi said the ministry was not aware that it had closed for business.

"We believe that if it does, it would have informed us through

the diplomatic channel.

"But we are not aware of that. Officially as far as we are concerned, there is no closure here," he stressed.

Uhomoibhi explained that diplomacy worked through the note-verbale based on good faith, particularly with friendly countries.

"Diplomacy is not about sniffing around for information; we conduct our businesses transparently through diplomatic note verbale or through visits.

"So, we are yet to be informed of any closure," he added. (NAN)

Electoral reform: Jonathan will fail if... - AC

By Muideen Olaniyi

ACTION Congress (AC) yesterday said that the administration of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan will be deemed to have failed if it cannot make any progress between now and June.

"For the Electoral Reform to have any positive impact on the 2011 elections, all the necessary amendments and the new laws must be in place at least six months before the polls. Therefore, Acting President Jonathan must set the ball rolling today," AC National Publicity Secretary Alhaji Lai Mohammed said in a statement.

Mohammed, who hailed the protests packaged by the organised labour and the civil society to push for the reform, warned that the battle has just begun.

On the new ministers to be sworn-in this week, he asked the acting president to set performance benchmarks for them in order to serve as a guide.

He said Jonathan must enunciate his vision and spell out the milestones he wants to reach within the next few months.

Mohammed said any minister that failed to perform on the basis of the stated vision and benchmarks must be shown the way out, adding that time is not on the side of this administration.

Police to deploy female officer to Liberia

By Misbahu Bashir

FEMALE police officers from Nigeria will be deployed to Liberia for peace keeping operations, Inspector General of Police Osobona Onovo has said.

Onovo made the remarks yesterday during the visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) to Liberia (SRSG) Madam Ellen Margrethe to the

police headquarters in Abuja.

He said an all-Female Police Formed Unit (FPFU) consisting of Nigerians will be deployed to Liberia to keep peace under the UN Peace Mission, adding that the police authorities will consider the request of the SRSG on the training of the Liberia National Police in Nigeria.

A FPFU may consist of between 120 and 150 policemen. India has sent one to Liberia

under the sponsorship of the UN.

He also said there was an efficient utilisation of resources of the various components in the United Nations Mission in Liberia urging that the peace restored in the country be exploited for economic growth and development.

A formed Police Unit consisting of Nigerians is in Liberia under the UN peacekeeping.

Earlier, Madam Ellen Mar-

grethe had requested the training of Liberian police in Nigeria and asked for assistance in the maintenance of the Nigeria contingent owned equipment.

She also requested the deployment of Police Specialists with skills in Human Resources Management and Investigation, saying Nigerian police peacekeepers in Liberia are hardworking and disciplined.

Ex-militants demand top Cabinet posts

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

AS Acting President Goodluck Jonathan gets set to swear in members of the new Executive Council of the Federation (EXCOF) tomorrow, notable ex-militants in the Niger Delta yesterday demanded key cabinet portfolios including the ministries of Petroleum, Niger Delta and Mines and Steel.

The ex-militants and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Rivers State said unless Jonathan agrees to their demands by allocating the said portfolios to Odein Ajumogobia, Elder Godswill Orubebe and Mrs Diezani Allison-Madueke, he risks failure in the months ahead.

The coalition's spokesperson, Kennedy Tondjo-West, told *Daily Trust* that the acting president "will use his hands to kill himself" if he fails to take their counsel seriously, adding that there would be crises of confidence in the oil rich region which will result in breakdown of law and order.

They also argued that Ajumogobia has been at the center of a debate to actualise the Petroleum Industry Bill and the granting of 10% royalty to host oil communities in the Niger Delta.

The ex-militants argued that it will only be fair for Ajumogobia to be allowed to complete his job in a category A ministerial position in the Petroleum ministry.

"Jonathan will be making a grievous mistake if he decides to remove the three core Niger Delta ministers from their former ministries," the ex-militants warned in a text message.

The ex-militants include Dagogo Farah, former commander MEND in Rivers state, his deputy Honbi Amaibi (aka Busta Rhyme), a former MEND commander in Southern Ijaw in Bayelsa State, Gen. Aduma, the former deputy of Asari Dokubo, Okorosa (aka Gen. Adekunle), Marvin Thompson and commander Edis.

The NGOs are the Niger Delta Youths Coalition for Development (NDYCD), Niger Delta Youths Alliance for Greater Efficiency (NDYAGE) and the Association for Non Violence in the Niger Delta (ANVND).

Iwu quits this week

Continued from page 1

has set for himself in the eleven months left before the administration's tenure runs out in May next year. The other two, he said, are improved power supply and consolidation of the amnesty program in the restive Niger Delta region.

The top government source also indicated that the Federal Government has identified "leadership problem" as the source of the recurrent crises in Plateau State. He said "the day Governor Jonah Jang begins to see himself as the governor of all Plateau State and not just of the Beroms, the crises in Plateau State will end."



A man grabbing his Easter meal from a refuse heap in Enugu yesterday.

Rimi dies after encounter with robbers

Continued from page 1

own road block about two kilometres away from a road block set up by mobile policemen, had already stopped and robbed several cars before Rimi's Jeep ran into them. A dispute apparently arose between the robbers and Rimi's brother Alhaji Sule Sa'a, and the robbers used clubs and thoroughly beat Alhaji Sule, wounding him in the head.

The family member said Rimi, who had a history of high pressure, suddenly felt very sick when he saw the injuries inflicted on his brother, and he urged his driver to drive fast towards the private Classic Clinic at Abbas Road, which he normally attends. At the Clinic, he was attended to by his doctor, Dr. Shittu, but by then his condition had so deteriorated that the doctor told them to proceed to the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospi-

tal. However, doctors at the hospital certified Rimi dead on arrival.

At around midnight last night, his remains were evacuated in a Government House ambulance to his residence at Durbin Katsina Road in the Bompai GRA. Within an hour, the house was already full of people, prominent among which were former Labour Minister Alhaji Musa Gwadabe, deputy governor of Kano State Engineer Tijjani Abdullahi Gwarzo, former House of Representatives member Faruk Adamu Aliyu, Special Adviser to the Acting President Dr. Akilu Indabawa and many others. Governor Ibrahim Shekarau had travelled to the United States. Receiving condolences at the house were two of Rimi's sons, Mohamed and Nura, and two of his daughters.

Alhaji Mohamed Abubakar Rimi, a diplomat in the First Republic and the Administrative

Secretary of the Nigeria Institute for International Affairs in the 1970s, first shot into the political limelight as a very vocal member of the nascent Peoples Redemption Party [PRP] in 1978. He was initially fielded by PRP as a senatorial candidate, but following the disqualification of its Kano State gubernatorial candidate Alhaji Salihi Iliyasu by the Federal Electoral Commission [FEDECO] in 1979, PRP leader Malam Aminu Kano chose Rimi to fill the void. He won the election and was governor of Kano State from 1979 to 1983. In 1981, the PRP split into two factions, with Rimi and Kaduna State governor Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa belonging to Chief Michael Imoudu's faction, while Malam Aminu Kano led the other faction. Rimi's faction later merged with the Nigeria Peoples Party [NPP] and he contested the 1983 elections on NPP's

platform but lost to PRP's Alhaji Sabo Bakin Zuwo. Rimi had earlier stepped down as governor in order to decamp to NPP.

He continued in politics to his last day, serving as a minister of Communications in the first Abacha regime in 1993-95. He was a chieftain of the SDP in the Third Republic and was a founding member of the PDP in 1999. He also contested the PDP presidential primaries against incumbent President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003 and lost.

Rimi would be remembered as one of the most flamboyant politicians ever produced in Nigeria, known for his flamboyant dressing, his sharp intellect, his fearlessness and his very sharp tongue. In 2006, the Rimi family suffered a major tragedy when his wife Hajiya Saudatu Rimi was brutally murdered in their Kano home.

Rimi: A biography

ALHAJI Abubakar Rimi was born in 1940 in Rimi, a village in today's Sumaila Local Government Area of Kano State. In the early 1960s he attended an instructor's course at the Institute of Administration, Zaria. He obtained a General Certificate of Education from the University of London. In 1972, he completed a diploma in International Affairs at the London Institute of World Affairs, and later obtained a Masters Degree in International Relations.

In January 2006, his wife Saadatu was killed at his home in Kano. One of his sons was among the suspects charged in connection with the murder, but was later released. The mystery behind her murder is yet to be resolved by the security agencies.

At 24, Abubakar Rimi joined

the Northern Elements Peoples Union (NEPU) led by the late Mallam Aminu Kano in 1964, which later metamorphosed into the People's Redemption Party (PRP) and in 1977, he was elected a member of the Constituent Assembly to review what became the 1979 Constitution.

In December 1978 he was elected the PRP's Deputy National Secretary at the party's first national convention in Lagos. He was a PRP candidate in the 1979 General elections.

Handsome and charming Rimi was elected to the governorship of the old Kano State as candidate for the PRP in the second republic, a post he occupied from October 1979 to May 1983.

At the time of re-election, Rimi along with others revolted

against Aminu Kano and factionalised the PRP. Rimi decamped to the NPP and lost a reelection bid.

The Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida regime in 1993 appointed Rimi the Chairman of Nigeria Agricultural and Commerce Bank (NACB). He was later appointed minister of communications by the General Sani Abacha government. He was also a one-time chairman of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company (NSPMC).

Rimi was one of the founding fathers of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He was the Chairman of the Finance committee of the Party at its inception and also one of its presidential candidates. He later moved to the Action Congress (AC), but in 2007 Rimi returned

to the PDP. In December 2008, he called on the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu, to resign from office, citing irregularities in the previous presidential election.

Rimi was also one of the founders of the PSP which later joined the SDP. During the 1993 presidential election, Rimi was Chief M.K.O Abiola's co-ordinator in Kano State.

Indeed, Rimi was part of the G-34 group that wrote against Abacha's transformation plan. Rimi criticized PDP's power shift concept and even contested the PDP's presidential ticket which had been zoned to the South. He later supported Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's emergence as the PDP flag bearer in 1999.

PHOTO: NAN

Easter: Speaker advises public office holders to be cautious

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Speaker of the Federal House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole yesterday said leadership was a transit position and advised all those holding public offices to be cautious. The Speaker gave the advice at the St. James Anglican Church, Idi-Ape, Abeokuta, Ogun State. Bankole, who attended the service to mark the Easter with

Christians also donated a bus to the church.

The Provost of the church, Ven. Peter Ogunmuyiwa, in a special Easter sermon said the Speaker was an example of a visionary leader, whose tolerance and humility could not be overemphasized.

OGUNMUYIWA said the presence of the Speaker in church, despite the fact that he is a Muslim, has portrayed him as one, who could foster unity in the country.

"This may not be allowed to happen in other parts of the country. But, our Speaker promised to come and he is here to observe this service. He is a shining example of what leadership should be. We can only continue to pray for him," he added.

The provost charged the people of Egba land to show more understanding and urged the congregation to show humility in whatever they do.

Mimiko calls for dedication

GOV. Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State has urged the people to regard the death of Jesus Christ as a means of re-dedicating themselves to the service of God and mankind.

In an Easter message signed by the Special Assistant to the governor on Media, Mr Akinwale Oshodi, Mimiko described the peace enjoyed in the state in the last one year as a manifestation of God's love.

In the message made available to newsmen in Akure, Mimiko said, "Christ's death will be in vain if adherents do not make biblical injunctions of love, peace, forgiveness and total submission to the will of the Almighty their watchwords."

Mimiko condemned the rampant political and religious killings in various parts of the country.

He described the development as an affront to the absolute authority of God as the only giver of life. The governor, who congratulated Christians on the Easter celebration, urged them to use the period to reflect on their past deeds with a view to making amends for a future life worthy of true Christians.

Mimiko, who thanked the people for their unflinching support to his administration, assured them that the dividends of democracy, which the state government delivered in the past one year was a tip of the iceberg. (NAN)



THE wife of the acting president, Mrs. Patience Jonathan Goodluck, (middle), left, Mrs Josephin Anenih and right the Chairman, State House Press Corp, Mr. Daniel Idono, during the Easter for the press corp over the weekend in Abuja.

Saraki urges religious leaders on unity

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

RELIGIOUS leaders in the country have been urged to promote acts that will unite the country and de-emphasize anything capable of dividing the country. Kwara State Governor Bukola Saraki gave the charge in his Easter message to Christians in Ilorin yesterday. He urged them to use the

Easter period to show love and care to one another. The governor, who spoke through his Chief Press Secretary, Mas'ud Adebimpe, enjoined Christians to always live in peace with one another. Saraki urged Christians to reflect on the life and teachings of Jesus, which emphasized love and goodwill to all irrespective of religion, tribe or creed. He also urged them to use

the Easter period to rededicate themselves to the service of God and humanity.

Dr Saraki commended Christian leaders in the state for maintaining religious harmony, urging them to sustain the tempo.

He also called on the people of the state to avoid acts capable of breaching the peace and security, saying everyone has a

vital role to play in sustaining the prevailing peace. In the same vein, the National Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party, Alhaji Kawu Baraje, yesterday asked Nigerians to pray for the leaders and the nation rather than apportion blames.

Baraje, who spoke in Ilorin added that the party would do its best to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people.

Kaduna bishop tasks leaders on servant – leadership

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

ARCH Bishop of the Kaduna Anglican Diocese, Rt. Reverend Josiah Idowu-Fearon has called on Nigerian leaders to embrace the servant leadership principle to bridge the gap between them and the people. Delivering his Easter message at

the St. Michael Church, Kaduna yesterday, he said leaders in the country were detached from the people.

"Our leaders must imbibe the servant leadership principle because they are completely detached from the people, who voted them in or appointed them. And as long as we are detached from our

people, there can never be peace and if there is no peace, there will be no development in the country," he said.

He urged religious and traditional rulers in the country to preach peaceful co-existence to their people, saying no religion on earth supports violence or crisis. He urged Muslims and Christians

in the country to follow the teachings of their religion for the country to move forward.

The bishop, while preaching the need for good neighbourliness among all, urged Nigerian to tolerate their neighbours irrespective of the differences that may exist among them.

NEMA cautions Nigerians on meningitis

THE Abuja Zonal Office of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has urged members of the public to sleep in ventilated rooms to curb the spread of cerebrospinal meningitis.

Mr Ishaya Chonoko, the Coordinator of the office, said this in Abuja yesterday.

He also advised the people to avoid living in congested rooms.

Chonoko said that the call became necessary following a fresh outbreak of the disease in some parts of the country.

"Cerebrospinal meningitis has continued to constitute public health threat to Nigeria,

especially in the north and occurs annually.

"World Health Organisation's (WHO) report at the end of Feb. 2009 shows that 8,424 cases were reported with 1,181 deaths recorded," Chonoko said. According to him, there is a belt called, 'meningitis belt' which happens between

December to June yearly.

He said meningitis could be life threatening, adding, "the inflammation caused by infections from the virus are proximal to the brain and spinal cord". He said the condition was classified as an emergency.

Chonoko said NEMA would carry out sensitisation pro-

grammes in the six geo-political zones to enlighten the public on the disease.

He said the programme would kick off in the FCT and Kogi in April.

NAN reports that the disease had this year caused the death of 30 people in seven states. (NAN)



BAYELSA State Governor, Chief Timipre Sylva, launching the new High Court Rules, 2010 in Yenagoa... recently.

Architect jailed for false claims

By Boco Edet

CHIEF Architect of the National Institute for Nigerian Languages, Aba, Abia State, has been convicted by the High Court of Abia State for contravening section 25 of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) act.

Architect Billy Usiomon was charged to court in March 2007 on a 5-count charge by the ICPC.

The prosecutor alleged during the trial that the accused had made false statement in the 'Architect Interim Certificate' to the tune of N7.2m by confirming to the executive director of the institute that the payment was made to a contractor when no work had been done.

The presiding judge, Justice S.E.O Nwanosike found the accused guilty in 4 of the 5 charges and sentenced him to one month imprisonment with an option of N10,000 fine on each of the 4 charges.

Police pledge impartiality in Abuja council polls

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police will not take sides in the forthcoming Area Councils election slated for April 10 in the Federal Capital Territory, Commissioner of Police John Haruna has said. Haruna told politicians at a meeting in Abuja that police will respect the law and will not take sides in the electoral processes. Political party leaders and aspirants at the meeting signed a memorandum of understanding with the police. He said police and other security agents will ensure safety and will be vigilant to prevent multiple voting.

Haruna said adequate police and other security personnel will be deployed for the election and will be monitored to ensure even-handed judgements in the election. The politicians were told to avoid acts capable of spoiling the election and cooperate with law enforcement agents during the electoral processes.

Kaduna plans big for Nok museum

By Sunday Williams

KADUNA State will develop the Nok museum to international standard to preserve the rich historical heritage of the Nok Terracotta which dates back to about 500 BC.

Governor Namadi Sambo made the remark at the weekend in Kwoi, Jaba Local government, at the 2010 Tuk-Ham cultural festival.

He said: "We shall continue to

pursue this noble course for the good of our people and society. Sometimes a year before we travel to Germany with Kpop Ham in exposing this rich culture we have among the Ham people."

He said the state government is also looking at the possibility of visiting the international Gallery in the United Kingdom so as to display the Nok rich culture for the general tourism and to participate in the international arena.

Governor Sambo said tourism is an industry that helps to generate income and employment opportunity in many countries in the world, adding that Egypt, Kenya, Israel and many other countries depend on tourism as their major source of income.

Chairman of the occasion Gen. Martins Luther Agwai said the Tuk-Ham cultural festival is an avenue that brings all the people of Ham together to pray to God for a

bumper harvest year.

Earlier in his remarks, the Kpop Ham Dr. Danladi Gyet Maude thanked the state governor for his efforts towards making fertilizer available to farmers and the effort to link the ginger farmers directly to consumers overseas.

He requested for the early distribution of fertilizer at an affordable price and for the construction of some roads that links neighbouring villages to Kwoi town.

AU, ECOWAS condemn Bissau event

By Aisha Umar Agale

THE African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have condemned a section of the Guinea Bissau army over the attempted disruption of the chain of command in the military and the recent storming of the UN compound.

President of ECOWAS Commission James Victor Gbeho and President of African Union Com-

mission Jean Ping also disapproved of the illegal arrest of the Prime Minister of Guinea and the open threat to his life.

The two presidents, who met in the margins of the 50th anniversary celebrations of Senegal's national independence in Dakar to discuss recent developments in Guinea Bissau.

They equally deprecated the removal and illegal detention of the substantive Chief of Defence

Staff and the general threat posed by that action to the population at large.

The two presidents met in the margins of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the national Independence of the Republic of Senegal, in Dakar, to discuss recent developments in Guinea Bissau.

A statement from ECOWAS commission said the two leaders agreed that the events perpetrated by the military leadership consti-

tute a serious setback to the democratic process in that country and the pledge of the Guinean military to extend respect and loyalty to their institutions.

While agreeing to continue to work closely together, the two presidents decided to visit Bissau to consult with the Guinean authorities and other stakeholders for the speedy restoration of democratic governance, peace and security to Guinea Bissau.

EFCC nabs ATM scammer in Kano

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arrested a 23-year man, who specialises in obtaining the Personal Identity Number (PIN) of people and transferring their money into his UBA X-Change card. The suspect, Abba Adam, obtains the numbers while pretending to help elderly customers, who have difficulties operating the machine.

According to the spokesman of the Kano office of the EFCC, Mr Gbenga Aroyahun, other people, who have fallen victims are those who forget their cards in the

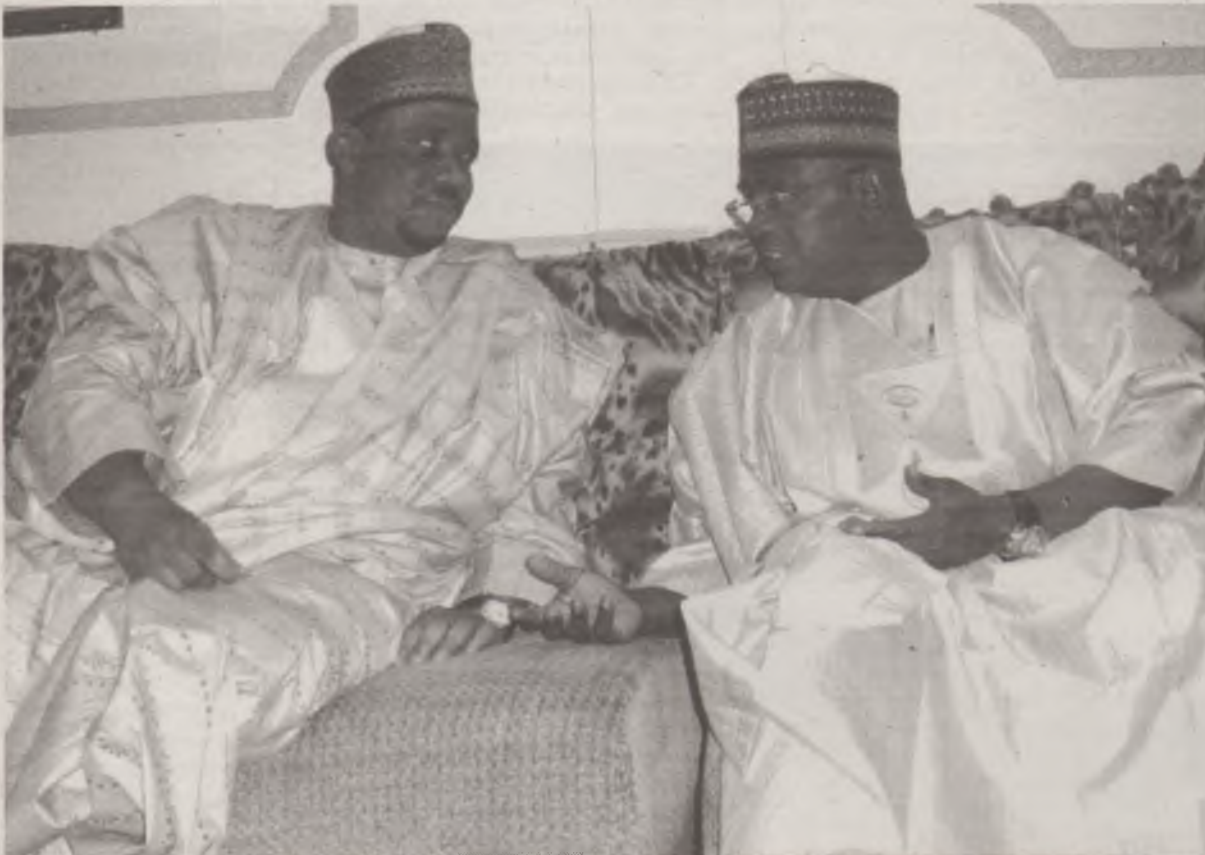
machine after transactions. "Abba will remove the card and go to another UBA machine, usually the Katin Kwari market branch and withdraw money.

The suspect's journey to the commission began the day he volunteered to assist one Haruna Mohammed, a 65-year-old pensioner to withdraw money. Abba took over the operation and transferred N140,000 from the account of the victim to his UBA X-Change card and left only N4,000 balance for the pensioner. He then advised the victim to go and withdraw money over the counter, saying the machine was faulty.

Realising the change in his balance, the old man lodged a

complaint to his banker. The bank's Service Head, Mr Ahmed Oketokun, contacted UBA on the transfer. This interaction led to the production of the footage image of Abba Adam as captured by the camera. This helped the investigators to track him, search his house and recover some tools, which he usually used for his operations", he said.

Aroyahun added that the commission would soon charge him to court for fraud, theft and impersonation. He advised the public to be careful, saying scammers always station themselves by the ATM, posing as staff or security personnel of a bank in order to gain confidence of customers.



GOVERNOR Danjuma Goje of Gombe State (right) receiving Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada at the weekend during a condolence visit to Gombe State over the death of Senator Kawu Peto.

Kano govt increases lecturers' salary

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

LECTURERS of the Kano State University of Science and Technology, Wudil (KUST) will now receive a basic minimum salary of N105,281.42 monthly.

This is as the state government last week agreed to increase the lecturers' salaries.

A statement by the state's Head of Service Rabi'u Zakariya'u said the state government agreed to increase the salary of the academic staff of the university from N70,649.17 to N105,281.42 in order

to implement the Consolidated University Academic Salary Structure II. In the agreement signed by the Head of Service on behalf of the state government and Comrade Abdulkadir Muhammad on behalf of the university's academic staff union, the increment takes effect from January this year.

While calling on the lecturers to ensure efficient and effective service delivery in the interest of the state, Malam Zakariya'u commended all the parties for their patience during the negotiation.

Hoodlums burn police station in Lagos

THE Ajeromi Police Station in Ajegunle, a suburb of Lagos, was on Saturday attacked by people suspected to be hoodlums.

The burning of the station followed a face-off between the police and some suspected criminals in the area, which left in its trail some casualties. The incident caused some residents to flee the area.

Trouble started when police raided some black spots in Ajegunle and in the process, some people allegedly lost their lives.

"The raid was first carried out on Friday leading to the arrest of a suspect and the death of another. This pro-

voked violent reactions from some youths in the area. On Saturday, they mobilised and launched an attack on the police and in the process, some deaths were recorded. What we saw was the burning down of the police station," a witness said.

The Rapid Response Squad was seen patrolling the area while Armoured Personnel Carriers were deployed in strategic locations. The Lagos State Police Spokesman, Mr Frank Mba, confirmed the incident, but said he had not received the details. "I have been informed of the crisis, but I do not have the details yet," he said. (NAN)

Eviction: Woman takes refuge under tree

MRS Hajara Yusuf, a retired civil servant in Borno State has taken shelter under a tree following her eviction from an apartment sold to her while in service.

Yusuf, 58, told newsmen on Saturday in Maiduguri that she was forcefully evicted from the apartment located at No. 1, Shehu Laminu Way, Maiduguri by some policemen. "We were still sleeping when some policemen came to inform me that they had been ordered by the Maiduguri Rent Tribunal to evict us from the house. They broke the doors and threw all our belongings outside before taken possession of the house," she said.

Yusuf, who retired from the state's Ministry of Sports last year, said she bided for and purchased the apartment in 2003, when government houses were sold to civil servants.

"I started living in the house in 1996 when it was allocated to me by the state government and in 2003 it was sold to me at N820,000. But some weeks later, a man called Bakura Deribe claimed that the house belonged to him," she said, adding that she decided to go to court to stop him from taking possession

of the house.

Yusuf said the court dismissed the case when it discovered that the building sold to her was located at No. 1, Shehu Laminu Way, and not No. 1a, Shehu Laminu Way.

She, however, said that when the man took the case to the Rent Tribunal, she sensed trouble, and went to the High Court to stop the proceedings. Yusuf claimed that the case was still on when she was evicted from the house on Thursday.

But Malam Zanna Laisu, the Secretary of the Borno Emirate Council, described Yusuf's claim as untrue. Laisu said that the house was sold to Yusuf in error as it belonged to the Emirate Council.

"The house originally belonged to the Borno Native Authority before it was hired by the State Government. But along the line, it was sold to the lady in error, and we have tried various avenues to let her see reasons why she should quit the house, but she refused," he said.

Laisu said that as a responsible organisation the council decided to follow due process by going to court. (NAN)

Niger gov injects N185m into education

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Governor of Niger State has injected N185 million into the education sector.

The money according to the governor, who was speaking at the Minna Emirate Educational Foundation on Saturday, would be shared among the eight emirate councils in the state. He said Minna, Bida and Kontagora will receive N30 million each, Borgu and Suleja to get N25 million each while Lapai, Kagara and Agaie will receive N15 million each.

Aliyu said the state government will no longer pay WAEC and NECO fees for students, who do not pass their

mock examinations.

"It is not aimed at punishing anyone, but to make sure that only well prepared candidates are presented for the Senior Secondary School Examinations (SSCE). Only those who pass the state mock examinations will enjoy free registration for the WAEC and NECO examinations. Parents will have to sponsor children, who cannot pass the mock examinations", he said.

Speaking earlier, the Emir of Minna Alhaji Faruk Bahago blamed students for the mass failure in the last NECO, saying they did not take their academics seriously.

He advised students to avoid ant-social activities and concentrate on their education.

Two charged over Nigerian teen's stabbing

TWO men have been charged over the fatal stabbing of a 15-year-old boy in County Dublin on Friday night.

The teenager, Toyosi Shitabbey, was found lying on the street at Mount Eustace in Tyrrelstown at about 2000 BST on Friday.

He was pronounced dead in hospital a short time later. Toyosi moved from Nigeria to the Irish Republic with his family 11 years ago.

About 300 people attended a memorial service in Tyrrelstown on Sunday. (BBC)

Court sentences 39-year old to 32 years for drug peddling

By Shehu Abubakar

ADANU Joseph Ega, 39, has been sentenced to 32 years imprisonment by a Federal High Court in Benin City, Edo State, for unlawful possession and dealing in cannabis weighing 504 kilograms.

The court, presided over by Justice Bala Mohammed Idris, sentenced the convict to 16 years on each of the 2-count charge

after he failed to exonerate himself of the charges brought against him by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

The convict was said to have knowingly possessed the cannabis without lawful authority on November 20, 2007 at Lagos camp, Ilushi village in Edo State contrary to NDLEA Act.

On the second count, the convict was said to have unlawfully

permitted his premises to be used for the storage, concealment and dealing in 504 kilograms of cannabis on November 20, 2007 at Lagos camp, Ilushi village in Edo State.

Adanu Joseph Ega is also standing trial at the State High Court Ubiaja, Edo State, over the alleged gruesome murder of three NDLEA officers in 1999.

NDLEA officers led by late

Offor Christiana had gone to arrest Ega when he allegedly masterminded their attack by a mob action.

The incident allegedly led to the untimely death of Ariwayo Sunday, Kusimo Kolawale and Offor Christiana who were on official assignment on March 20, 1999.

NDLEA Chairman Mallam Ahmadu Giade said the judgment

is a welcome relief because of the notoriety of the convict's illegal drug activities. "The agency will not rest until justice is done on the murder of innocent NDLEA officers that were on lawful assignment," Giade said.

Edo State Commander of the NDLEA Mr Okey Ihebom hailed the ruling and said they will not be deterred by attacks from drug barons.

PIC:FELIX ONIGBINDE



EMIR of Bwari, Alhaji Musa Ajakoro (left) with National President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Jam'at Nigeria (AMJN), Alhaji Mashud Adenrele at the 60th Jasla Salana annual conference in Abuja on Saturday.

'Borrowing to finance budget deficit unhealthy'

By Sunday Williams

THE proposal to finance the huge budget deficit mainly from borrowing is unhealthy especially with the new game plan of switching from external to internal debts, the Lead Director of Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) Eze Onyekpere has said.

The projected expenditure of the 2010 budget is N4.6 trillion containing a deficit of N1.521 trillion. The 2010 Appropriation Bill states that part of the budget revenue, N897.3 billion will be source from domestic borrowing and N75 billion from international bonds respectively.

In an overview of the 2010 Appropriation Bill passed by the National Assembly, the CSJ Director said it appears that after exiting indebtedness to international agencies, the country is steadily increasing its domestic indebtedness.

He said; "The total provision for debt repayment increased from N283.7 billion in 2009 to N497 billion in 2010. With the 2010 budgetary plan to borrow N972 billion, the 2011 budget will definitely need a higher percentage of the budget to service debts. With current total indebtedness of about \$26b, Nigeria appears to be back on its way to unsustainable debt overhang. The debt will exceed \$32 billion by the end of 2010."

He said the proposals for borrowing have not been accompanied by Cost Benefit Analysis as demanded by the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), adding that the government did not specify which activities and projects the borrowing would be applied to as contain in section 44 (1) of the FRA.

Ex-MPs want Jos crises' sponsors prosecuted

By Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER members of the House of Representatives yesterday called for the prosecution of all those sponsoring the recurring violence in Jos to provide a permanent solution.

The former lawmakers, under the auspices of Former Members of House of Representatives Forum, tasked the federal government to be more pro-active.

A statement signed by Musa Elayo, former Minister of State for Justice; and Emeka Nwajuba, Interim Chairman and Secretary, respectively, also called for the implementation of reports written by various administrative and judicial panels to discover the causes of the crisis without further delay.

They described the arraignment of some alleged perpetrators of the latest killings in Dogo

Nahawa and other villages in Plateau State as a welcome development

The Forum said: "We call on the government as a matter of urgency makes public all the reports of the various committees set up on the Jos crises which identified the sponsors and to prosecute the sponsors in order to serve as a strong signal to trouble makers that the era of impunity in our country is gone. Prosecut-

ing only those who were alleged to have carried out the attacks without arresting the sponsors, in our view, will not solve the problems" the forum noted.

The group, which called on the leadership to avoid partisanship in dealing with the issue, implored the leadership in Plateau state to 'to stoop to learn from the Kaduna Example which has consigned the issue of ethno-religious crisis to the past'.

Ex-minister mourns death of senators

By Frands Okeke

IMMEDIATE past Attorney-General of the Federation Prince Adetokunbo Kayode yesterday described the death of Senators Umbi Tawar Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku as a huge loss to the nation's democracy and people as a whole.

Senator Wada died Wednesday in Abuja while Senator Dukku died Friday in Kaduna.

A press statement signed by Assistant Director of Press in the labour ministry Samuel Olowookere said Kayode, a former labour minister, expressed "his heartfelt condolence to His Excellency, the Senate President Distinguished Senator David Mark, Leadership of the Senate, all distinguished Senators and the entire members of the National Assembly including the people and Gov-

ernment of Gombe State over the sudden and untimely death of the two distinguished senators who were illustrious sons of Gombe State.

The statement added that the Minister "was shocked and touched over the news of the death of the two senators whose brilliant contributions in the hallowed chambers of the National Assembly are highly commendable.

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Bauchi FRSC arrests 500 motorcyclists over helmets

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State Command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) has arrested over 500 motorcyclists for not using helmets. The arrests were made during the command's special patrol last month, the state Sector Commander Mr Sunday Maku has said.

Speaking to our correspondent in Bauchi at the weekend, the FRSC boss said the command had set aside one week in every month to conduct a special patrol to educate motorists and other road users on the need to comply with road safety rules. He said those arrested during the patrol last month for not using helmets were made to pay the N2,000 fine and buy new helmets before their vehicles were released to them.

He said the monthly exercise was intended to safeguard lives and curb over loading and excessive speeding. He added that the command was collaborating with the state government and other stakeholders to ensure the use of crash helmets in the state.

“He said those arrested during the patrol last month for not using helmets were made to pay the N2,000 fine and buy new helmets before their vehicles were released to them.”

Group to honour Ibrahim Tahir

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Nigerian Anthropological and Sociological Association (NASA) is to confer a national award on late Northern scholar, Dr. Ibrahim Tahir, who died last year and two other founding fathers of the association in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the development of the profession. The award is part of activities lined up for this year's national conference of the association slated for tomorrow at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria. The two other scholars to be honoured are Professor Layi Erinoshio and Professor Oloruntimehin. Briefing newsmen yesterday in Kaduna, the chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr. John E. Gyong, said Professor Jimi Adesina of the Rhodes University and Professor Mark Anikpo of the University of Port-Harcourt would present the keynote addresses. He said the conference would examine critically the developmental challenges of the country. He added that the proceedings and recommendations of the conference would be the contributions of the association to making Nigeria one of the 20 most developed economies by the year 2020.

...Wamakko too

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

GOVERNOR Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko of Sokoto state has been honoured with the West Africa Leadership Award of the 'outstanding governor of ECOWAS' for the year 2009. A statement by the Special Assistant to the Governor on Press Affairs, Alhaji Abubakar Muhammad, said the award would be conferred on him on April 24 at the Airport Hotel, Accra, Ghana. It added that the award was by the Africa International Media Organization and that it was contained in a letter signed by the organization's Executive Secretary, Dr Fernando Mensah.

The statement added that Wamakko was chosen for his visionary leadership of protecting the interests of the people irrespective of religious, political and ethnic differences. It added that Governor Wamakko had also performed well in education, housing, agriculture, roads, health and the provision of basic infrastructures. In a related development, the European-American University, Commonwealth of Dominica is to confer an honorary Doctorate Degree of Science on Governor Wamakko.

Tsav flays FG over Ribadu

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FORMER Lagos State Police Commissioner Alhaji Abubakar Tsav has criticised the Federal Government over its decision to drop the corruption charges against the former EFCC boss, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu. Tsav in a telephone interview with our correspondent yesterday called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to pick Ribadu up as soon as he enters the country, saying the

action was a direct fight against Yar'adua.

"I am sure Goodluck Jonathan wants to use Ribadu as Obasanjo did to save some people or persecute them. If Jonathan is honest and sincere, why not extend the same goodwill to Major Al-Mustapha and others, who have been in custody for over 11 years for attempted murder," he said.

Tsav said the decision would lay a dangerous precedence that some Nigerians are above the law.

He therefore advised the EFCC to arrest the former EFCC boss up whenever he shows up.

"The act of discriminatory justice will only encourage crime in the country and make the job of the police difficult. If indeed Ribadu believes that he is innocent of the charges, he should appear before the Code of Conduct Tribunal to defend himself? That is what a government which cherishes honesty and justice should have ordered," he said.

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Fiscal federalism solution to Jos crises –IBB

I wonder at what point IBB became a democrat after his annulment of the fairest and freest election in our recent

history. Who is fooling who by his trying to curry favors with leaders of the West whose son had

clearly won the election of June 12 1993? Why do retired military generals think that they are the only ones who can lead this

country of ours? It is indicative of the arrogance of these self-serving have-beens who stole our

resources and now want to use it to grab power.
Longpet H. G
halelongpet@btinternet.com



FORMER EFCC Chairman Nuhu Ribadu

Ribadu says he wants to return home

I write in response to the impending return of Nuhu Ribadu back to Nigeria. I have a suggestion: since Professor Iwu's tenure as head of INEC is coming to an end, would it not be a proactive, intelligent and progressive government that would appoint Nuhu Ribadu into that position, with Wole Soyinka on the Advisory board? Oh, it was just a thought since we always aim to embark on putting Nigeria on the global democratic level of other democratic nations that don't rig their elections.

Jaiyeola Bagbansoro
jbagbansoro@hotmail.com

Sorting out the minimum wage mess

WELL I guess you have said enough, but regarding the real facts about the country's civil service, the redundancy is quite appalling. Here, I am trying to point out that the percentage of Nigerian civil servants that do not help in the production process is too much, most especially at the State and Local Governments. Those are places where you meet a single person out of a hundred assuming all the responsibilities in an office making the others redundant. In another context, our major source of income in Nigeria is crude oil. It does not come from our sweat but rather a God-given gift. If it were to stop for just a day (God forbid) you will see openly the problems of being unproductive. Finally, I am not trying to condemn the issue of minimum wage increase, but rather informing the workforce or civil service of its shortcoming. I hope my fellow Nigerians will change their attitudes towards their duties.

Muhammad Auwal
frarufy05@hotmail.com

FCT residents to pay more for water

THE FCT Water Board director is insensitive to the plight of Abuja residents. Did he get approval from the National Assembly to increase the water rate?

Emma
emmaj@yahoo.co.uk

IF the two sheikhs that accompanied the Imam confirmed publicly what the imam narrated, then we have no doubt of him being alive because we have faith in them.

Buhari Sani
sanibuhari@ymail.com

...Another game plan of the cabal to divert the attention of the masses from current national affairs. First, it was Yar'adua's cousin stating that he saw him playing with animals, then Isa Yuguda, and now the Chief Imam! The Imam should have told Yar'adua to address Nigerians via NTA/Radio Nigeria if he wants Nigerians to take him (Imam) serious.

Wahab
womonl@aol.com

It is a good to finally know the true state of health of the President but it is an expression of ungratefulness to Allah for anyone to advise him to return to the Presidency unless some people insist on wanting him to attract indignity and abuse to himself and his kinsmen. Yar Adua should be courageous and make history.

Tasiu Muhd Ringim
tmringim@gmail.com

Yar'adua is not an ordinary person. Why are they shielding him from the greater percentage of Nigerians? If at least one Nigerian should see him, that person ought to be Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, because at the moment he is the country's Number One citizen. Please, unless there is an ulterior motive, Goodluck should be allowed to see Yar adua.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

Why Jonathan couldn't swear in ministers

MR Jonathan, just go ahead but try to do it with one heart and in the name of our slogan; UNITY, PEACE AND PROGRESS

Buhari Sani
sanibuhari@ymail.com

The issue of who will be allocated with key ministries between the North and South does not arise. All we need from the Ag. President is to look at the new ministers and allocate them based on merit. By doing this, I am sure he will form a good cabinet that will help him in taking our country to the Promised Land.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damura@yahoo.com

That is it, completely undeter-



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

Is it not a shame that the Acting president has not been able to see the President and the Imams have been able to see him? I respect the men with respect to their spiritual calling but if Mr. President is that healthy to receive visitors, I think it is a slap to Nigerians that he has not been able to talk with his deputy or even make a public statement. This might just be another of the long line of lies we have been hearing. I just hope that the spiritual men will not be dragged into this mess.

Don
chia28us@yahoo.com

Why can't Nigerians just move forward? This man is unwell and trying to recuperate. We don't need any Pastor or Mullah telling us about his health. If ever he is fit to return to his post, we should wish him well and the best. Nigerians should learn to let sleeping dogs lie. The fact that we don't have made us to stagnate for more than 50 years.

Bunmi Abimbola
bunmiahmadou@aol.com

This is a good development for Nigeria, and I believe it will downsize the tension. Please let the

meeting with the Senate President, Speaker, and Acting President be scheduled in time. Equally ordinary citizens want to have a glance at their president.

Rislana Kanya
mohdelrislan@yahoo.com

The prayer of Nigerians will never come to fulfillment. He is going to resume back to office by the end of this month. The heart of those who speak against him will be silenced and forgotten. God's plans are different from men's. He has shown wonders in the heart of the unexpected. Yar' adua is the messiah sent by God to rescue our Country Nigeria. He must accomplish the work which he has come to do.

Samuel Agber Jnr
aondowase@ymail.com

I pray Allah grants him a speedy recovery and no sane person wants him dead but I strongly feel it is most imperative and obligatory for him & his family to at least show us his current picture and he should address the nation in a televised address.

Bolaji
bjmashaun@gmail.com

He met with Yar'adua, shook hands with him twice, "a brief exchange", but did he talk with Yar'adua? ...Certainly not. Yar'adua has been recovering since the week after he left for Saudi Arabia and till now it is still the same old tale. These stories can never be true until he appears on NTA not BBC Radio or any other radio station

Justice Uzoma
spatarns4real@yahoo.com

I do not know what they want

to achieve with this news as we do not want anything to heat up the Nigeria Polity again at this time. All along they have kept the condition of the President secret and it should remain so till he is fit to appear in public. It will be a political hara kiri at this time to open old wounds. Let the Acting President settle down and swear in the new cabinet. The President needs ample time to recuperate. Nigeria has been stagnant for too long. If I were in his shoes I will walk from away from power and focus on recovery. God heal the President!

Chris Ariama
chrisariama@yahoo.co.uk

The chief Imam of Abuja National Mosque claimed that he and three other Imams saw the president. This raises a lot questions that demand answers. Were they invited or they went there on their own? Why hasn't the president, since his arrival into the country, been allowed to see any of the following: The Vice President (now Acting President), the Senate president, The Speaker House of Reps., and his political associates? Why can't he speak to Nigerians via our mass media? What I feel about the whole thing is that this is just another tactic employed by his so-called cabal to distract the Acting president from carrying out his duties. Whatever the Imams said does not mean anything to us. If Yar'adua's health condition is improving, let the majority of Nigerians testify to that. Let him address the nation. Nigerians should resist any attempt by certain individuals to cause confusion in this country. Let the Acting President remain focused and carry out his duties without fear. Thank you.

Emmanuel Dauda
emmanavis2003@yahoo.com



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

which office fits who? Now that is clear indication that Mr. Jonathan was not the one that handpicked his team. It is obvious that some-

one somewhere dictated the selection of that list. If not, one would have expected that before even the announcement of their names, Mr. Ag President would have known their capabilities and their area of specialization. In fact we expected he had ear-marked them for various ministries even before the Senate could have finished screening them. I have great respect for his personality and love for Mr. Goodluck for his humility therefore he should not please fail me and many Nigerians that fully behind him by giving us these kinds of excuses. I just pray that those aides of his are not trying to play funny games.

Salisu Umar
salisgaladunci@yahoo.com



By Musa Ahmad Azare

Gaddafi's gaffe: The US has said worse things of Nigeria

Some call him 'controversial'; others 'unfathomable'; still others call him 'fatuous' and yet, others out rightly call him 'mad man'; perhaps borrowing from former United States president Ronald Reagan who once labelled the Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi as a "mad dog". A skilled political operator, highly philosophical, an intellectual in every sense of the word, Gaddafi is a leader who is fondly adored by his people such that no single Libyan is raising an eyebrow as their leader turn himself into a life president of sorts. He is running his country based on the principles of justice, equity and fair play, something that can hardly be said of his counterparts in Nigeria and many other African countries.

Recently, the media reported that the Libyan president made some unguarded utterances about Nigeria that elicited outrage and condemnations from various quarters. Gaddafi was quoted to have suggested the splitting of Nigeria into two sovereign nations; one for Christians, the other for Muslims, as a panacea to the recurring sectarian violence in the country. However, Gaddafi is not the first to advance such a view-

Is our patriotism and loyalty truly to Nigeria or to our respective ethnic, regional and other sentiments?

point on Nigeria; in fact Gaddafi's is merely a viewpoint, even though a faux pas and a major diplomatic gaffe.

The United States of America had on two different occasions expressed worse negative viewpoints about Nigeria. I call America's negative viewpoints on Nigeria worse because they are not just viewpoints or suggestions, they are prophecies or predictions clearly aimed at undermining Nigeria and create instability and subsequently cause disintegration.

In 1997, at the peak of the dictatorial regime of late Gen. Abacha, the United States Bureau of Intelligence and Research wrote on Nigeria thus; "The country is increasingly becoming ungovernable.... Ethnic and regional splits are deepening.... Religious cleavages are more serious; Muslim fundamentalism and Evangelical Christian militancy are on the rise; and Northern Muslim anxiety over Southern Christian control of the economy is intense.... the will to keep Nigeria together is now very weak". Notice the Muslim-Christian divides as observed by the US in the above pronouncement. In the same vein, the United States National Intelligence Council released a report in March 2005 in which she predicted the collapse of the African Giant in a matter of 15 years. "The most important decline would be the outright collapse of Nigeria...." says the report.

The above is an indication that the United States is more of an enemy to Nigeria than friend. Any country that predicts the collapse of another sovereign country is not a friend to that country; otherwise it should've helped the collapsing country to sort itself out. America being the master of the art of conspiracy and clandestine interference in other nations' affairs must have surely planted something terrible in Nigeria, to be making such predictions. But Gaddafi only expressed his candid opinion out of deep concern for the continuing barbaric killings of women, children and the aged in Nigeria, in the name of either Christianity or Islam. The barbaric shedding of innocent blood in this country, reminiscent of the dreadful Rwandan genocide seems not to matter at all to Nigerian leaders, hence, various suggestions by all manner of people in and outside our shores are proffered, some provocative and condemnable while others filled with wisdom. The level of outrage and consternation that greeted Gaddafi's unfortunate remarks about Nigeria and the relatively low-key responses to America's conspiratorial conduct are, to say the least, surprising.

However, beneath Gaddafi's honest suggestions and America's deadly prophecies lay some seriously disturbing questions: Is Nigeria truly a one nation with one destiny? Are we not already split up? Do we really love one another as compatriots or are we just pretending? Do we really believe in one Nigeria at all? Is our patriotism and loyalty truly to Nigeria or to our respective ethnic, regional and other sentiments? I strongly believe that not a few Nigerians know very well the answers to these posers.

Nigeria, a name coined by a British woman called Flora Shaw is a collection of clearly different and non-conforming cultures and traditions; and completely divergent socio-economic and political entities. This collection was package into a very complex whole in 1914 by our colonizers and exploiters for their own selfish interests; to continue to meddle in our in our affairs, to hinder our peaceful co-existence and to continue to rob us of our fortunes till eternity. And we Nigerians have not helped ourselves since the colonial fortune seekers left our shores. We continued to live in the mutual distrust and antagonism, on which track the colonialists have put us. Since then, every national challenge is taken along ethnic or regional dimensions instead of facing it as one nation.

The 1954 Constitution which made Nigeria into a Federation of three regions; Eastern, Western and Northern regions encouraged the formation of regional political parties; Action Group (AG), represented the Western region of predominantly Yoruba, Northern Peoples' Congress (NPC), represented the Northern region of predominantly Hausa/Fulani and National Council of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC), represented the Eastern region of predominantly Igbo.

Azare wrote from 10, Muhammad. Danmadami Road, Azare, Bauchi State (maazare@yahoo.com)



By Abdul-Azeez Suleiman

Yobe: Reviving the core-values of Kanem-Bornu Empire

Historians agree that the ancient Kanem-Bornu Empire had great leaders with great visions and greater values. Those values included the dispensation of justice to all manner of people throughout the empire and the tradition of leadership by example. The empire comprised principally of the present Yobe and Borno states.

Centuries after the dismemberment of that empire into smaller units, history is repeating itself, at least in the Yobe half of it. Sticking to the tradition of consistency taught by the ancient Kanem leaders, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam appears to be reviving the legendary values of the founders of the empire.

Gaidam has acquired a reputation for consistency in insisting that workers in the state are not humiliated and exploited, that debt and depression do not compel farmers off the land, and that the state must focus more on educational development so it could rank among the highest in the country.

As deputy governor in 2007, Gaidam along with his late boss Mamman Bello Ali persisted in addressing the numerous defects of the administrations that preceded theirs by putting in place policies towards ensuring that things

This one year has signalled a reaffirmation of Yobe's historic values by bringing back the people's lost confidence in the experience of governance

get better; that those who had least did not suffer most; poor people did not get poorer and the state generally must not be weak.

Both however have had to face a prolonged battle waged on them by a minority group that preferred the perpetration of the sort of government that would only be profitable to the powerful by making a mockery of democracy, by empowering bureaucracy and plutocracy.

Members of this self-interest group did not feel any need for being fair nor did they see any reason for presenting logical arguments to justify their position. Typical of all losing detractors, the group encouraged a few media scoundrels to assert and reassert arguments that are completely disproved in a bid to create public opinion by propaganda to the ignorant.

Even when Gaidam by providence assumed the governorship following his boss's death in 2009, the battle persisted until the courts of law recently made a landmark pronouncement that permanently sealed the fate of his opponents. Throughout those trying moments, Gaidam remained undaunted. He fought on to ensure that the values they had set for the state did not shrink, that farmers had markets for their produce and that youth in the state do not con-

tinue to face a grim problem of existence.

He pursued the campaign for a democracy of men different from the rule of an aristocracy of money which his opponents proposed. He stood firmly on the principle that governments are created for the service of the people and not for domination, and that for any government to survive; it must conserve the interest of the common man.

He immediately diffused authority among the people with a vow to operate a true government of the people, by the people and for the people as opposed to a "government of the wealthy, by the powerful, for the influential."

Using this as a launch-pad, Gaidam, within a short time, was able to mobilize the people of Yobe to begin to think back to the good old paths set by those illustrious founders and builders of the old Kanem-Bornu empire- back to the landmarks of equality where ordinary men had rights that even power respected, where justice, not privilege, was the watchword of leaders who embraced every section and every class.

He followed this up by outlining programmes aimed to guarantee that people's lives and skills were not wasted by unemployment, that children of the under privileged no longer have to contend with a school system that was deprived and derided by government officials who won't send their own children to public schools.

He also charted a policy direction that guaranteed social security for even those who are not poor, even those who do not have children going through the public schooling system, even those who are not old and anxious, not young and unemployed and not badly housed.

Generally, the governor has proved to be a leader speaks less and works more, who would always be among his fellow citizens and listen to them in order to fashion out a state of economic prosperity and social justice distinct from the uncaring, removed-from-the-people government intended by his opponents.

Thus Gaidam, in the last one year alone, has been able to present a great moral asset that holds within itself the hope that in the future, the state will no longer suffer from the past complexes of being indebted to a certain clique. This one year has signalled a reaffirmation of Yobe's historic values by bringing back the people's lost confidence in the experience of governance, confidence in the values of democracy, confidence in the decency of leadership and above all, confidence in the relevance of Kanem's experience as spiritual crossroads.

Perhaps this explains why the people of Yobe, now free in their democratic life, conscious partners in progress, secure in their new-found political environment and enjoying a moderately decent standard of living are already forming a fine bulwark against the opposition who place political exploitation above the collective interest of the state.

Suleiman wrote from Wuse II, Abuja; he can be reached at weekend. news@yahoo.com



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Run Adrew Azazi, run

On behalf of concerned youths, women, children and all citizens of Bayelsa State, we write you this letter to beseech you to consider running for the Governorship of Bayelsa State.

Our call is based on the fact that Bayelsa State has become too polarized, too deeply divided, too economically retarded and too underdeveloped.

BAYELSA years is not a political group. We do not seek publicity or political relevance. Nor do we seek to unnecessarily agitate the polity and set off a round of gerrymandering.

14 years after its creation from the old Rivers State (in 1996), Bayelsa State have become a sorrowful, shameful and painful example of what could happen to

a people when they refuse to agree and decide on their right to good leadership, peace and progress.

14 years after, a people so blessed stand the risk of being tagged 'cursed'.

Of all the states of the Niger Delta, we are the most blessed in terms of Federal appointments.

We have had a fair share of top military brass. We have our fair share of ministers in key government ministries. We have even had a Vice President. Now we have an acting president.

In spite of all these, our people still wallow in abject poverty, underdevelopment and neglect.

The cradle of Ijaw has become the subject of exercises on bad leadership, underdeveloped, political deceit and disunity.

We have too many 'big men' in Bayelsa state. Really big men, yet we lack leaders who can bring change, unity, prosperity and development.

Every big man wants to be at the helm of affairs. Everyone wants to call the shots. Everyone wants to take care of himself. No one wants to take care of the people.

We seek someone who can take care of our people and give us good leadership that will unite all and provide for all.

Dear General Azazi, some say you are too big to run for Governor. Others say your military bearing and background may tamper with your ability to provide exceptional political leadership.

We say, you are a neutral man backed by a lifetime of regimentation, precision and direction. Bayelsa state needs eight years of regimentation, precision and direction.

After that time, our politics may have become more people oriented and new leaders may have emerged.

Victor Weri (bayelsa@gmail.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Over to you, GSHA

GOMBE state House of Assembly should pass the bill against homosexual and gay peoples in the state. This is because any delay makes the activities of that deviant group of people to escalate and cause havoc on the conduct and behaviour of our unsuspecting youngsters, especially in Gombe metropolis. The ulama must come out strong to preach against these vices.

08034251855.

Misdirected energy

NLC should stop messing around. You're fighting a lost war on behalf of a group of selfish and unreliable political parties. Make your FIGHT one for a LIVING WAGE for workers.

IBRAHIM Zakirai, Kano, 08066014446.

Blood for ballot

SO Jos crisis has won 2011 for Jang. It's very unfortunate that

the lives and properties of innocent people were destroyed as a strategy to win elections in 2011. I believe a lead is now provided as to the causes of the crisis.

08091078803.

Is that a new game?

THE recurring crises in Jos are a shame to the North, to Nigeria a subject to use in mocking us in countries like Libya, USA, etc. It is unfortunate however that while thousands are bereaved still mourning their loved ones, some thoughtless goats in human skin, who only care about this perishable world are publicly celebrating, proclaiming that the unfortunate incidence has WON for THEM an automatic TICKET to 2011 ELECTION at the price of thousands orphaned, widowed and made refugees. One wonders if this isn't the motive behind the setting up the CRISIS in the first place. In advanced countries, this statement would be worth inves-

tigating.

SALISU Aso, Suleja, 08069743517.

What mandate, Danjuma?

THE head of Presidential Advisory Committee not a governor! Only the governor is responsible for nominating the minister, Gen T.Y Danjuma should act within his schedule as presidential adviser; and Gov Suntai of Taraba State should play his role; one should not usurp the mandate of the other.

07065550394.

Yaradua and the Chief Imam

THE declaration by the Chief Imam of Abuja has shed some light on the kind of leadership we have. While I commend the Islamic clerics on their concern for the president's health, it is necessary for the Christian leadership to visit him too, because as a father of all, he should see all.

MAXWELL, Sokoto, 08039648802.



By Ijeoma Kalu

The hidden merits of microfinance

In Nigeria, only about 35% of the economically active population has access to formal financial services, according to the Microfinance Policy, Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Nigeria, published 2005. The remaining 65% is often served by informal financial institutions such as moneylenders, friends, relatives, cooperatives, etc. Ignoring to regulate the activities of these informal sources does not create a vibrant financial system that promotes micro, small and medium enterprises growth and development. This is because their activities are not monitored by official regulatory organs, such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), to enhance stability and promote a sound financial system. In recent times, the activities of cooperative societies and self-help groups have called to question the unethical practices they engage in, like defrauding customers and engaging in pseudo-banking services. Unlike the microfinance banks, such informal organizations are not licensed to carry out the business of micro financing and are not regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria and other key agencies like the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Nigeria is a country that has enormous potentials in the microfinance market, as it accounts for 93.79 percent micro credit demand to the tune of \$19.2 billion (N2.82 trillion), according to a research report by Intellectual Capital Advisory Services (Intellectap). It is important to state that despite the current issues in the Nation's financial terrain, Microfinance Banks have held their own by stimulating economic growth through promoting savings, and access to credit for micro small and medium entrepreneurs. A robust economic growth cannot be achieved in any economy without a framework or strategy that focuses on poverty alleviation, empowerment, and promoting access to credit, which microfinance banks are in a unique position to promote. Such specialised financial institutions have made their mark in enabling access to economic activities, promoting entrepreneurship, increasing employment opportunities, self reliance, enhancing household income and also creating wealth.

The reality is that poor people are excluded from formal financial systems due to their unique saving needs, their need for small loans, and lack of collateral for credit. However, the rise of microfinance in Nigeria represents a remarkable accomplishment that demonstrates that it is possible to provide cost-effective financial services to the poor. There are over 900 Microfinance Banks in existence; with at least 30 operating in Abuja. Average loan sizes range from as little as N 5,000 to amounts higher for organizations and groups. Over N50 Billion has been given out already to target audiences like micro, small and medium entrepreneurs (MSMEs), formal and informal self-help groups, individuals, cooperatives, associations and low-income groups who are also provided other services such as business advisory, managerial, marketing, technical, administrative support and proper loan usage monitoring. Many countries in Asia have due to their success stories on microfinance expanded opportunities on promoting wealth creation, employment generation and poverty reduction. India and China are excellent examples of countries that were also able to apply home grown microfinance strategies to position their economies to stay afloat despite the global economic recession that has affected a lot of countries all over the world. Lessons and examples from best practices like Bangladesh is lauded. The microfinance industry in Bangladesh has been able to provide microcredit to about 13 million poor households. There are also around 1,200 microfinance institutions in Bangladesh with four notable ones—Grameen Bank, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Association for Social Advancement (ASA) and Proskika that cover about 90% of all clients.

It is imperative that the Central Bank of Nigeria ensures that only professionals are permitted to practice. The ongoing Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) target examination of microfinance banks in the country and the certification programme will go a long way towards ensuring that this sector has the technical capacity needed to accomplish the goals of the Microfinance Policy in 2005 envisages. Financial support such as funds and grants should also be provided to this sector, which is a major vehicle for promoting the growth of micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have been verified as important for poverty reduction and rapidly growing the economy of any nation. Nigeria should not be left behind.

Ms Kalu wrote from 35, Herbert Macaulay Way, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja (whitedrummer74@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way,
Utako District, Abuja
09-6726241, 6715364

NITEL's sale

Following three unsuccessful attempts to sell the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL), it now appears that New Generations Communications Limited (NGCL) has emerged as the national carrier's new owner. NGCL offered \$2.5 billion for the troubled carrier, though not without several objections and allegations, after the previous owners, Transnational Corporation of Nigeria PLC (TRANSCORP), was forced to divest due to proven inability to transform the company. Other reasons for their exit include the non-injection of new funds, failure to adhere to the terms of the Share Sales Purchase Agreement (SSPA), and the inability to meet their obligation to pay staff emoluments.

Created in 1985 after the merger of Nigerian External Telecommunications Ltd, common carrier services and the telecommunications arm of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, NITEL was, until the recent mobile communications explosion, the state monopoly responsible for virtually all telecoms activities, and operated a mixture of analogue and digital technologies. It still has the only land-line network in the country and other valuable, though fast depreciating, assets.

The Federal Government began seeking a buyer for a minimum 75 per cent of NITEL and 100 per cent of its mobile unit M-Tel in July 2009 after TRANSCORP divested its stake. Prospective investors were invited to acquire either at least 75 per cent equity in the entire NITEL conglomerate or a stake in one or several of its components, including M-Tel, submarine fibre-optic cable division SAT-3, the company's domestic fixed-line infrastructure, its national fibre-optic transmission backbone, and its Coded Division Multiple Access (CDMA) network.

In an attempt to fend off unserious bidders who, if they won the bid, would be unable to pay the final bid price as was the experience in the last three failed attempts, the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) introduced a more stringent requirement of posting a 30 per cent bond of the anticipated bid offered by each potential core investor. This requirement was met by the bidders. The Second National Carrier, Globacom, was disqualified in the interest of promoting competition, and the mainly South Africa-owned MTN could not get a stake in SAT-3 undersea cable for which it only offered a paltry \$25 million.

The major challenge confronting the preferred bidders now remains one of raising the funds to pay for the balance of the bid and to turn NITEL into an efficient and profitable enterprise in the shortest possible time. To achieve that, they need to re-tool, re-equip and renovate to give existing operators a run for their money. The nation's landlines and facsimile system need to be revived.

Overall, while we concede the desirability of trying to bring private sector funds, management style and modern expertise to improve service delivery and general performance of public sector utilities, there still remain several technical complications inherent in the whole privatization exercise. Share purchase agreements are often inchoate, asset acquisition is often not properly controlled and several aspects of the share purchase agreement are non-enforceable. Due diligence is often conducted in the data room of BPE. There are few guidelines regarding assets stripping by these firms allowed to acquire state enterprises.

Other areas of concern include conflicts of interest between the acquired enterprise and other arms of the acquiring firm operating in the same market, lack of managerial capacity of the acquiring private investor, lack of technical knowledge of the particular industry by the acquiring firm, inability to meet financial benchmarks, replacing state monopoly with a new private monopoly, unnecessary retrenchments of personnel inherited by the acquiring firm, fraudulent transfer of the properties of these acquired firms to subsidiaries of the core investor, as in the case of NITEL, Ajaokuta and Aladja Steel firms, etc. The issue is to always remember that these were public assets transferred to private hands on the understanding that services and charges would improve and be affordable to the consumer.

Monitoring of privatized enterprises is essential to ensure all aspects of the purchase agreements are adhered to. Future exercises must be made more transparent to avoid charges of unethical conduct in the selection of core investors. BPE, the regulatory commission should be more alive to its responsibilities.

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ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

Governors and oil industry cash-calls

Cont'd from last week.

The above listed anomalies, unfortunately, cannot be addressed by a simple audit of cash calls. This will lead us nowhere as the NEITI audits have already revealed. What is required is a full blown Value for Money Audit that analyzes out-turn project costs and comparing them with similar projects in Nigeria and elsewhere (Internal and External cost benchmarking) with the following key elements:-

- a) Reconciling cash-calls paid and received
- b) Verifying accounting records to ascertain accuracy and objectivity
- c) Analyzing in depth the processes by which capital projects, contracts and procurements are managed and controlled
- d) Analyzing, validating and comparing the operating costs between operators
- e) Comparing operating costs in Nigeria against costs internationally.

The NEITI of which I am a member of the National Stakeholder Working Group (NSWG) was set up to deal with issues like have been discussed so far as they relate to the extractive industry particularly the oil and gas industry where they have been mandated to inject transparency and accountability into a sector that has been hitherto been most opaque.

The NEITI Act in section 3(a) empowers the NEITI to evaluate without prejudice to any relevant contractual obligations and sovereign obligations the practices of all extractive industry companies and government respectively, regarding acquisition of acreages, budgeting, contracting, material procurement and production cost profile in order to ensure due process, transparency and accountability. In living up to this powers, the NEITI advertised on their website a value for money audit in 2007 which with the following broad terms of reference "The Value-for-Money Audit (VFM Audit) will audit the terms, procedures, and practices associated with joint ventures and production sharing contracts between Nigeria and commercial oil companies. The objective of this audit is to ensure that: i) The financial accounting pertaining to such JVs and PSCs fairly represents the actual and reasonable costs incurred in exploring, extracting, and transporting oil, among other such aspects of oil production in Nigeria; and

ii) Such costs associated with oil production in Nigeria are reasonably consistent with the costs associated with comparable operations, domestically and internationally, along with substantiated analysis explaining material deviations arising from evaluation against such comparables."

As it turned out even though tenders were received and analysed for this laudable audit, the NEITI did not go ahead with this all

By Peter Esele

important value for money audit. The absence of transparency in oil and gas, and doubts about the cost efficiency and effectiveness which a value-for-money audit and a benchmarking exercise, would have at the least given a detailed and informed view to address, still persist and are getting worse as the frustration gleaned in the governors statement clearly shows.

True that the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) and the Local Content Bill will address some of the problems but it is going to take a long time for the structures set out in these new Bills to take root and begin to address real problems. Again these Bills when enacted into law will create their own problems which if we are not careful, will only pile into the existing problems which we have refused to even study, understand and to begin to positively address.



True that the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) and the Local Content Bill will address some of the problems but it is going to take a long time for the structures set out in these new Bills to take root and begin to address real problems

One is tempted to say that there is inertia and an attempt to deal with the problems of the oil and gas industry from a position of ignorance which of course is always a recipe for disaster. My position on this is informed by Government's attitude and intentions to solve the oil industry very fundamental problems without wanting to carry out studies that will enable informed judgement, decisions and objective solutions to be proffered and affected thus:

a) NEITI audits that have been hailed as opening up the industry and enhancing transparency and accountability in this very vital sector have stalled on the completion of the 2005 audit. The years 2006 to 2009 are now in arrears and the longer the audit is delayed the more difficult it is to obtain the relevant documents for a successful audit. Besides the lessons learnt will no longer be useful as the report becomes stale by the time it is released.

b) The Government wants to deregulate the downstream sector without first stepping back to carry out a study to document the problems, understand what is responsible for the inefficiency in the sector before taking the right decision to inject competition, efficiency and effectiveness into the sector. Governments' position that they will carry out this study after deregulation seems to me like putting the cart before the horse in which case progress cannot be made.

c) The Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) which is meant to address the problems with the upstream sector is too wide and sweeping that it will take almost ten years to fully implement the Act when passed.

The Bill is the result of the OGIC work. A value for money audit, as discussed above would have supplemented the work of the OGIC, generate useful information on how to attain cost efficiency in the sector whatever the Joint Venture structure is eventually applied (whether Incorporated or Unincorporated). Again, we are putting the cart before the horse and the result is motion without movement.

Decisions reached and actions taken in "a fire brigade" approach cannot be optimal and will not solve deep rooted problems satisfactorily. Well, one could argue that the problem of jumping before we think is peculiar to the oil and gas industry because decisions relating thereto are bound to be "oily" given the importance of the sector to our national budget and well being. But alas, the situation is now becoming a national disease. Just take a look at the power sector, the deplorable state of our road network or the

depressing state of our education. We are in deep trouble whatever the sector we look at because we are afraid either to find out facts or we do not want to act from a position of the strength of knowledge.

This is why it is possible for importers of petroleum products to encourage and support a deregulated environment that they know will further trench their authority to rip off the consumer and guarantee them continued corrupt income; that is why our refineries will never work so that importers can be guaranteed business; that is why the upstream companies will continue to oppose the PIB because it is the first bold attempt to give the oil and gas resource to Nigerians who truly own it.

All in all, it is our considered opinion that the Governors' call for a cash call audit is appropriate. Such an audit should not just be limited to a confirmation of what cash call has been paid and what cash call has been received. It should go deeper than that to include a full blown value for money audit which should also include cost benchmarking both amongst the companies domestically but also internationally. Unwillingness to carry out detailed study into the challenges that we face, whatever the sector concerned is like jumping blind folded. We should be bold to move away from that attitude and approach. Modern progressive and successful governments do not solve problems in that manner.

Concluded.

Esele, a former President of PENGASSAN, is head of TUC (esele1914@gmail.com)

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INTERNATIONAL

Zuma calls for calm over white supremacist killing

SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma called yesterday for calm following the murder of white supremacist leader Eugene Terre'Blanche as his party vowed to avenge the killing.

The 69-year-old leader of the extremist Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging (AWB, Afrikaner Resistance Movement) was brutally killed by black workers on his farm on Saturday evening, sparking fears of renewed race tensions.

His party has vowed to avenge his murder and AWB secretary-general Andre Visagie told AFP that the group would meet on May 1 to plan the way forward but urged its members to remain calm and to not take immediate action. "We will decide upon our actions

to avenge Mr Terre'Blanche's death. We will take action and the specific action ... will be decided upon at our conference on the first of May," said Visagie.

Zuma urged South Africans to remain calm as opposition parties and groups warned that the far-right leader's killing had created a potentially explosive situation.

"The President appeals for calm following this terrible deed and asks South Africans not to allow agent provocateurs to take advantage of this situation by inciting or fuelling racial hatred," a statement from Zuma's office said.

Terre'Blanche was hacked to death by workers on his farm outside the farming town of Ven-

tersdorp, in the north west of the country. Two men, one a teenager, who were workers on the farm have been arrested for the murder.

They claimed that a fight with the feared leader ensued after he refused to pay them their monthly wages of 300 rand (41 dollars, 30 euros), local media reported. "This is a sensitive matter," said police minister Nathi Mthethwa, who visited Terre'Blanche's family and the murder scene yesterday.

He warned the public against making racial inflammatory statements. "Let us not fan the flames, let us not romanticise violence, let us allow the police to do their work," Nathi Mthethwa told journalists.

"There are emotions involved here, inflammatory statements will not help the case," he added. Police barred access to Terre'Blanche's farm yesterday morning as journalists began to descend on the small town and followers of the right-winger arrived to mourn his death. According to the Sunday Times newspaper, the two workers notified the police after the incident and waited for them to arrive.

"They also alleged that Terre'Blanche was a bad boss who used to physically and verbally abuse them. They claim that he pushed them too far," a police source told the newspaper. His bloodied body was found in his bed with facial and head injuries,

a machete still embedded in his flesh and a knob-headed stick nearby.

Terre'Blanche's supporters, who wear khaki uniforms and the organisation's swastika-like symbol, violently opposed South Africa's all-race democracy and campaigned for a self-governing white state. Their campaign included bomb attacks that killed 21 people ahead of the 1994 polls, which ended the white minority apartheid state.

Violence on farms, which remain overwhelmingly in white hands 16 years after apartheid ended, is high in South Africa with 1,248 farmers and farm workers killed between 1997 and 2007.

G/Bissau's ousted army chief 'fine' after mutiny

GUINEA-BISSAU'S army chief General Jose Zamora Induta "is fine", two days after he was overthrown and detained in an army mutiny, an aide to President Malam Bacai Sanha said at the weekend.

The statement came after the president asked a delegation headed by one of his advisors Mario Cabral to find out about the conditions under which Induta is being held, a source close to the president's office said. Induta had complained about soldiers using profanities when they arrested him on Thursday.

"Zamora is being treated well and is fine," said Cabral, who is the president's diplomatic advisor, after seeing Induta at a barracks near the airport. Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior, who was also arrested, threatened and put under house arrest in the mutiny, said Friday after talks with Bacai, that the situation was "now stable." "I can assure you that institutions will return to their normal functions," he added.

Witnesses at the weekend described Bissau as calm after the latest turmoil in the former Portuguese colony, which has lurched from coup to coup since independence in the 1970s.

The country's years of instability and institutional weaknesses have made it an easy target for drug-lords who traffic cocaine by air and sea, often escaping detection in Guinea-Bissau's porous coast, maze of mangroves and scattered archipelago.

Senegal takes back French military bases



SENEGAL'S President Abdoulaye Wade delivers a speech in Dakar yesterday as the country marked 50 years of independence

SENEGAL marked 50 years of independence yesterday by exerting its sovereignty with an announcement it was taking back French military bases, a symbolic move to be cemented after talks with its former colonial ruler.

Senegalese troops are to be joined however by a French contingent on a march through the capital as part of festivities for its independence celebrations, attended by France's Interior Minister Brice Hortefeux.

The historic step announced by President Abdoulaye Wade in an address to the nation at the weekend night has no marked effect in the short term, but is very symbolic for a country branded by 350 years of French presence. The first French colony south of the Sahara, Senegal hosts one of three permanent French military bases in Africa with 1,200 men based in Dakar. The other bases are in Libreville and Djibouti.

Wade's announcement followed shortly after the inauguration of a

controversial monument to the African Renaissance, vaunted as a symbol of the emergence of a continent with some one billion inhabitants after five centuries of slavery and colonisation.

The 84-year-old said that keeping the military bases in Senegal -- one of the rare countries on the continent that has never experienced a coup d'etat -- "appeared more and more incongruous and has often been felt by our populations... as an incomplete independence."

"I solemnly declare that from 00H00 (GMT) April 4 Senegal will take back all the (military) bases formerly held by France and intends to exert its sovereignty," Wade said in an address to the nation on public television. However several French sources say there is no question of sovereignty as the land has remained Senegalese and was only put at the disposition of the French. The announcement has left several questions about what will happen after Wade's announcement.

International

Coup mongering in West Africa

By Charles Onunaiju

IN an ironic twist, as the president of ECOWAS Commission, Ghanaian-born ambassador James Victor Gbeho was proclaiming last week that the "era of coup is over in West Africa," a faction of the military in Guinea Bissau was locking up their chief of army staff and prime minister in apparent coup attempt.

The military in Guinea Bissau is factionalized between the loyalist of former Navy Chief, Bubo Na Tchuto, allegedly, the master-minded of the 2008 coup attempt. Mr. Tchuto who returned from exile in the Gambia last December, in a canoe, disguised as fisherman, took refuge at the United Nations building. The government of Prime Minister Carlos Gomes has demanded his been handed over to it.

However, the seizure of the Prime Minister and Chief of Army Staff by the renegade soldiers paved the way for the fugitive former Navy Chief to; leave the UN building with no clue as to his where-about.

As expected, ECOWAS has condemned the attempted coup and expressed serious concern about events in the country. The statement issued by the ECOWAS commission from its Abuja headquarters in Nigeria, warned that those responsible for the apparent coup attempt would meet with a "robust response and dire consequences from ECOWAS and the entire international community".

The sub regional body noted that the attempted coup was coming at a time when the successful presidential election of July 2009 had engendered a socio-political framework for ECOWAS and the international community to engage in strengthening the democratic process.

The statement said that "ECOWAS is therefore, watching the developments in the country very closely and will leave no stone unturned in its effort to defend the democratic gains and maintain stability in the country."

The Nigeria's federal parliament, consisting of the 91-member senate and 360 member's house of representative has in February invoked the doctrine of necessity to transfer power albeit temporarily to the Vice President, Mr. Goodluck Jonathan, following the protracted absence of the president, Mr. Musa Yar'adua on ground of severe ill-health.

The legislature later justified their controversial decision on the basis that it staved off, an impending military coup which would have torpedoed the democratic process, according to them. However, in staving off a prospective military coup, the legislature reached out for a military traditional reason for intervention, the doctrine of necessity, which would not wait for the rigours of



MR. Carlos Gomes Junior, Prime Minister of Guinea Bissau, detained along with Army Chief of Staff last week, in apparent coup attempt, by dissident soldiers.

constitutions to be fully explored.

The doctrine of necessity is an elastic political doctrine, which in the current context has allowed a legislative circumspection of the constitution, but can also be expanded to include other wide range of subversions targeted at the constitution.

Since the invocation of the doctrine of necessity to transfer power to the vice president in acting capacity and the subsequent dramatic return of the president, though, remaining incommunicado, political life has largely stalemated in the country, in spite of the exactions of the acting president. The coup scare or mongering in Abuja may have receded, but the disquiet and anxiety in quite noticeable.

Last year, a fragile civil political infrastructure woven around an aloof and insensitive dictatorship of the late President Lansana Conte, was easily and effortlessly shoved aside, as soon as Mr. Conte died. The junta led by Captain Dadis Camara, mobilized popular support in Conakry to justify the dissolution of civil political institution and suspension of the constitution.

However, the inability of the junta to commit itself to an unambiguous programme of return to civil rule brought it to a headlong collusion with the civil population that have originally cheered it to power, culminating in the cold blooded massacre of

agitators demanding a definitive commitment to a return to civil rule. The subsequent trading of blames, coupled with the outrage of the international community, fractured the junta, leading to an apparent coup attempt, in which the junta leader was fatally wounded. After been flown abroad for treatment, he was subsequently banished to Burkina Fasso where he is currently on political exile.

His successor, General Sekibo has made definitive commitment to a return to civil rule, but more importantly ruled himself and other junta members out of the contest for elections leading to the establishment of civil rule.

However, while the junta leaders have been applauded for obviously genuine intention to organize credible elections, it is difficult to speculate how a political space compressed and frozen in over two decades of dictatorship can eventually lend itself to the rigours of broad participation.

Even as the Guinean military waited for Mr. Conte to die before they struck, it was largely thought that classical coup, where the army bundles out a seating government, is gone completely out of fashion in the sub-region institutional platforms of regional and international organization have become implacably hostile to any form of establishing government that is not through democratic elections.

To the extent of what appear to be a trite and granite consensus that an elected government is more tolerable even for its excess, Mr. Mamoud Tandja, in Niger Republic turned his country's constitution upside down to hang on to power. On February 18th, the chicken came home to roost for the former army officer, whose political fortune of an elected presidency has come with a previous army-backed democratization.

On the fate day, while holding forth in the government chambers, soldiers blasted their way, and in a mutiny that lasted barely few hours, seized Mr. Tandja and associates. The soldiers proclaimed a military council for the restoration of democracy.

The civil population cheered and chanted on the streets, hailing the newest junta in the sub region, as great arbiters on behalf of the people, Mr. Tandja who have given headache to the diplomats of the sub-region for his stubbornness and obstinacy was gone, and a breath fresh air is hovering in Niamey.

The diplomats of the sub-region rushed to catch it, forgetting momentarily that the bureaucracy of the sub-regional organization at the behest of their political helmsmen have proclaimed military intervention, a mortal and unforgivable political sin. Former president of the ECOWAS commission, Mr. Ibn Chambas was caught on camera, giving a massive bear hug to the

new Nigerien strongman, as if to say "thank you, for a job well done."

Besides, the assorted coup scares and mongering in the region that suggest prospects of military re-entry in the political life of West African, elections and other democratization measures have faced serious challenges.

The political landscape of the region, continues to be agitated by narrowing political space dominated by ruling parties and incumbent actors, corruption binge, that inhibits government efficiency and constrains state legitimacy, and more dangerously; the confinement of the civil population to the mechanistic rituals of thumbing the ballot, which in most cases do not even count.

ECOWAS, which has lent its alarming voice to threats to any "elected" government in the region will have to reinvent itself out of the straight jacket of a formal bureaucracy, mechanically beholden to its political masters in the various regional capitals.

The coup scare in the region is not an isolated threat but a cumulative deterioration of a thoroughly disoriented party political process.

From the cheers and chants in the streets of Niamey and Conakry and the gloom that pervades Lome, Abuja, Abidjan and even Dakar, the world may come to believe that the region is fated to a deal with their men on the horseback, at least for a while.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, SAUKA ABUJA

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

The Nigeria Immigration Service intends to award various contracts for works, goods and services for the Service Headquarters, Zonal and State Command formations all over the federation.

2.0 OBJECTIVE:

The projects, goods and services required are aimed at improving the office and residential conditions as it affects welfare of officers, provision of working tools, communication, monitoring systems, and conducive learning environment for staff.

In the light of the above, the Nigeria Immigration Service invites submission of Tender from suitable and reputable companies possessing the experience cum Technical and financial capability to undertake the defined scope of works and supplies needed.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK:

S/N.	PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION	PROJECT CODE
1	Construction of One (1) Block of Two (2) Storey 18nos 1B/R flat	Immigration Village Sauka, Abuja	NIS/PRS/2010/001
2	Construction of One (1) Block of 4no One (1) B/R flat including fencing	Jibya, Karsina State	NIS/PRS/2010/002
3	Construction of One (1) Block of 4no One (1) B/R flat including fencing	Suleja, Niger State	NIS/PRS/2010/003
4	Construction of Border office including fencing	Oron, Akwa-Ibom State	NIS/PRS/2010/004
5	Construction of fence (Phase I)	Kiri-Kiri, Lagos State	NIS/PRS/2010/005
6	Construction of Headquarters Office Annex (Phase II)	Immigration Village, Sauka, Abuja	NIS/PRS/2010/006
7	Const. of dwarf fence and general clearance of plot	Emene, Enugu State	NIS/PRS/2010/007
8	Construction of Forensic/Photographic Laboratory	Imm. Training School (ITS), Ahoada, Rivers State	NIS/PRS/2010/008
9	Construction of Forensic/Photographic laboratory	Imm. Command and Staff College (ICSC), Sokoto State	NIS/PRS/2010/009
10	Const. & fencing of Immigration Divisional Office	Lagos, Lagos State	NIS/PRS/2010/010
11	Const. & fencing of Immigration Divisional Office	Enugu, Enugu State	NIS/PRS/2010/011
12	Const. & Fencing of Immigration Divisional Office	Nafada, Gombe State	NIS/PRS/2010/012
13	Const. & fencing of Immigration Divisional Office	Kaduna, Kaduna State	NIS/PRS/2010/013
14	Const. & fencing of Immigration Divisional Office	Maiduguri, Borno State	NIS/PRS/2010/014

4.0 ELIGIBILITY:

4.1 Interested bidders are to submit the following documents:

- (i) Comprehensive Company Profile indicating managerial, structural, technical and operational capabilities.
- (ii) Evidence of Valid Certificate of Registration of company with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- (iii) Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three (3) years (i.e. 2007, 2008 and 2009).
- (iv) Company Tax Identification Number (TIN) obtainable from FIRS
- (v) VAT Registration Certificate and evidence of VAT Remittances.
- (vi) Bank reference from the company's bankers
- (vii) Company's financial details and certified audited account for the past three (3) successive years (i.e 2007, 2008 and 2009)
- (viii) Evidence of Verifiable past experience in handling similar projects (Past award letters and job completion certificates as proof)
- (ix) Detailed list of Technical Staff with their resumes, CVs and cognate experiences
- (x) Any other additional information/documentation that will enhance the company application.
- (xi) A sworn affidavit from the court exonerating Serving Immigration officer(s) as either a shareholder or staff of the company.

4.2 Bidders are expected to submit separate applications for each Lot.

4.3 Bid documents should be obtained from Service Tenders Secretariat at Room A66, Ground Floor, Immigration Headquarters, Sauka-Abuja on payment of a processing fee of N10, 000.00 for each lot, and must be submitted within four weeks of this publication.

4.4 Bid submissions should be in two (2) separate sealed envelopes for Technical and Financial bids. Each envelope should be clearly marked "TECHNICAL BID" OR

15	Construction of Library	Immigration Village Sauka, Abuja	NIS/PRS/2010/015
16	Construction of Passport office, wall fencing, borehole with reticulation and furnishing	Alausa, Ikeja-Lagos, Lagos State	NIS/PRS/2010/016
17	Rehabilitation of four (4) blocks of 2B/R Semi - detached flats	Ikang Control post, C/River State	NIS/PRS/2010/017
18	Rehabilitation/Renovation of Zonal office headquarters	Benin City, Edo State	NIS/PRS/2010/018
19	Maintenance/Reconstruction of the first floor of Admin block	Immigration Command and Staff College (ICSC), Sokoto State	NIS/PRS/2010/019
20	Provision of Equipment for Library: shelves, Tables and Chairs	Immigration Training School, Orlu, Imo State	NIS/PRS/2010/020
21	Furnishing of Five (5) Completed Senior Officers' Duplexes	Immigration Village, Abuja	NIS/PRS/2010/021
22	Furnishing of 30 nos Room Hostel.	Immigration Training School (ITS) Ahoada, River State	NIS/PRS/2010/022
23	Completion of furnishing of Auditorium	Immigration Training School (ITSK) Kano, Kano State	NIS/PRS/2010/023
24	Furnishing of Screening Centre	Immigration Village, Abuja	NIS/PRS/2010/024
25	Supply of Water Tanker Truck	Immigration Village, Abuja	NIS/PRS/2010/025
26	Supply of motorcycles	Immigration Village, Abuja	NIS/PRS/2010/026

"FINANCIAL BID" with appropriate project code Number at the top right hand corner of each envelope. All bids not so marked will be rejected.

4.5 Bids should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on Thursday, 29th April, 2010 to;

The Secretary
Immigration Service Tenders Board Secretariat,
Room A66, Ground Floor, Nigeria Immigration Service Headquarters,
Sauka-Abuja.

5.0 OPENING

5.1 Bids will be publicly opened at the expiration of four (4) weeks from the date of this publication and shall be conducted at the Conference Room, First Floor of the Service Headquarters, Sauka Abuja on Thursday, 29th April, 2010 at 2:00 pm.

5.2 Representatives of the company and members of the public are invited to be present.

NOTE:

(a) Original copies of items ii, iii, and v of paragraph 4.1 must be presented for sighting before collection of Tender documents.

(b) This advertisement of invitation to Tender shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of the Ministry of Interior/Nigeria Immigration Service nor shall it entitle bidders to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from the Ministry/Immigration Service and/or any of their partners by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement. Neither will the Ministry nor Nigeria Immigration Service incur any liability in an event that a particular procurement is cancelled.

Signed
Comptroller-General
Nigeria Immigration Service
For: Honourable Minister of Interior

International

Pope's immunity could be challenged in Britain

PROTESTS are growing against Pope Benedict XVI's planned trip to Britain, where some lawyers question whether the Vatican's implicit statehood status should shield the pope from prosecution over sex crimes by paedophile priests.

More than 10,000 people have signed a petition on Downing Street's web site against the pope's 4-day visit to England and Scotland in September, which will cost UK taxpayers an esti-

mated 15 million pounds (\$22.5 million).

The campaign has gained momentum as more Catholic sex abuse scandals have swept across Europe.

Although Benedict has not been accused of any crime, senior British lawyers are now examining whether the pope should have immunity as a head of state and whether he could be prosecuted under the principle of universal jurisdiction for an alleged systematic cover-up of sexual abuses by priests.



POPE Benedict XVI looks on during an Easter Mass in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican, yesterday.

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Germany to probe friendly fire clash that killed 6

GERMANY'S defense minister yesterday announced a thorough investigation into the friendly fire clash that left six Afghan soldiers dead and said the tragedy came during a sophisticated attack by up to 150 Taliban fighters.

Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg told journalists that the German prosecutor general has started an investigation of its own into the deadly clash Friday night near the northern Afghan city of Kunduz.

In addition, NATO's ISAF, the Afghan Defense Ministry and his own German defense department will investigate what happened, Guttenberg said. The friendly fire deaths occurred on the same day that three German troops died and eight were wounded in heavy fighting with insurgents.

Friday's attack on the German soldiers, carried out by an estimated 150 Taliban fighters, was "remarkable in its complexity" and involved several attacks in different locations, he added.

The German troops

were rushing to the scene of their comrades' fighting after nightfall and mistook the Afghan soldiers for insurgents, the military said. Guttenberg expressed his sympathy to the families and relatives of the Afghan soldiers killed by German soldiers.

Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed condolences to Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and Guttenberg presented his apologies to his Afghan counterpart Abdul Rahim Wardak, he said. Amid heavy fighting, friendly fire incidents "can never be excluded with absolute certainty," Guttenberg said in Bonn. He also confirmed that six Afghan soldiers were killed. The German military previously had put the death toll at five.

The minister also prepared Germans to expect more fighting by saying the situation in Afghanistan could "colloquially be referred to as war" — until now German politicians had always stopped short of calling military operations in Afghanistan a war. "Operations there are and remain dangerous," Guttenberg said.

Iran to host nuclear disarmament conference

IRAN said yesterday it will host a nuclear disarmament conference later this month, part of Tehran's efforts to show it is not seeking to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili, was quoted by state television as saying the two-day meeting, dubbed "Nuclear Energy For All, Nuclear Weapons For No One", will start April 17, just days after a US-hosted summit on nuclear security. "Iran, as a country supporting global disarmament, invites the world to disarm and prevent proliferation," Jalili said.

Jalili also said that China, which has resisted US-led efforts to impose new UN sanctions on Iran over its disputed nuclear program, would attend the meeting in Tehran.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH NATIONAL MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE EXECUTION OF MDGs-DRG FUNDED PROCUREMENT OF LONG LASTING INSECTICIDAL NETS IN RESPECT OF 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS

- The Federal Republic of Nigeria through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) intends to provide funds for the National Malaria Control Programme to procure Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) for States with identified net gaps.
- The National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) now invites interested and reputable Contractors, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Suppliers with the relevant experience and good track record for:

PRE-QUALIFICATION

LOT: Long Lasting Insecticidal-Treated Nets

PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- I. Certificate of Registration With Corporate Affairs Commission
- II. Evidence of Contributory Pension Scheme for Staff
- III. Evidence of Current Registration with NAFDAC
- IV. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years
- V. Evidence of Current Good Manufacturing Practice with full details of in-house quality control (QC) facilities.
- VI. Evidence that the product offered is recommended under the World Health Organization Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES)(interim or full approval)
- VII. Evidence of VAT Registration and remittance
- VIII. Evidence of Experience with similar jobs in the last three (3) years in Nigeria or other tropical countries:
Name(s) of client(s), contract sum(s) should be provided
- IX. Statement of installed manufacturing capacity
- X. Evidence of manufacturing facilities and their locations
- XI. Evidence of financial capacity to handle the job and bank reference
- XII. Evidence of current registration with Regulatory Authority in the country of manufacture
- XIII. Manufacturer's Authorization for Distributors/suppliers of items being marketed
- XIV. Foreign Manufacturers should provide names and addresses of Local Representatives in Nigeria
- XV. Company profile and organizational structure with names and qualification(s) of key personnel

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The complete pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in an envelope, sealed and marked at the top right hand corner "PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF LLINs" and addressed to:

**The National Coordinator
National Malaria Control Programme
1st Floor Orji Uzor Kalu House,
1st Avenue Shehu Shagari Way,
Central Area, Abuja**

The complete pre-qualification documents should be deposited in the **Tender Box in the Conference Room, National Malaria Control Programme, 1st Floor Orji Uzor Kalu House, 1st Avenue Shehu Shagari Way, Central Area, Abuja** at or before 12 noon, 19th April, 2010. Opening of the submitted documents will take place at 12.00 noon, 19th April, 2010 in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the Conference Room of the National Malaria Control Programme, Abuja. Late Submission will be rejected Tenderers should note that only pre-qualified companies would be invited to bid for this procurement. The National Malaria Control Programme reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification documents.

**Signed
National Coordinator**



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICE

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF TENDER



INTRODUCTION:

- The Nigerian Prisons Service intends to award various contracts of works, goods and services for National Headquarters and many Prisons formations all over the Federation.
- Objectives:** The Projects/Supplies are aimed at improving the Prison conditions as it affects the welfare of inmates and staff, provision of working tools, effective monitoring of prison security, communication system and better health-care delivery.

Nigerian Prisons Service therefore invites submission of Tenders from suitable and reputable companies having the experience cum the Technical and Financial capability to undertake the defined scope of works/supplies.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/HWS/C/1/10	Construction of 20 Bed Prototype Prison Staff Barracks Hospital at Kirikiri, Lagos	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/2/10	Construction of Prototype 10 Bed Prison Hospital at Borstal Training Institution, Kaduna	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/3/10	Construction of 20 Bed Prototype Prison Staff Barracks Hospital at Port Harcourt	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/4/10	Construction of 20 Bed Prototype Prison Staff Barracks Hospital at Kakuri Prison Camp, Kaduna	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/5/10	Construction of 20 Bed Prototype Prison Staff Barracks Hospital at Kano Central Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/6/10	Construction of 10 Bed Prototype Hospital at Owerri Prison Training School	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/7/10	Construction of 15 Bed Prototype Hospital With Mental Wing at Enugu Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/8/10	Construction of 20 Bed Prototype Prison Staff Barracks Hospital at Calabar	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/9/10	Procurement of Medical Equipments for Kirikiri, Lagos Prison Staff barracks Hospital	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/10/10	Procurement of Medical Equipments for Prison Staff Barracks Hospital, Port Harcourt	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/11/10	Procurement of Medical Equipments for Prison Staff Barracks Hospital at KPC, Kaduna	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/12/10	Procurement of Medical Equipments for Calabar Prison Hospital	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/13/10	Procurement of Medical Equipments for Kano Central Prison Hospital	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/14/10	Procurement of Medical Equipments for Enugu Prison Hospital	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/15/10	Supply of Furnishing items to Prison Staff Barracks Hospital at Enugu Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/16/10	Supply of Various Kitchen and Cooking Utensils/Equipment at PHQ Abuja 'Lot D'	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/17/10	Construction of Squash Hall at Prison Staff College, Kaduna	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/18/10	Construction of Squash Hall at Prison Village, Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/HWS/C/19/10	Purchase of Sporting Gadgets at PHQ, Abuja	N10,000.00

OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/OPS/C/1/10	Supply, Training and Installation of Data, Voice and Optional E-Mail Facilities and UU+ Software Transmission Equipment for Networking 5 Prisons Formation (SHQ Radio Rooms, Osun, Ado-Ekiti, Delta, Bayelsa and Imo)	N10,000.00
NPS/OPS/C/2/10	Supply, Training and Installation of Data, Voice and Optional E-Mail Facilities and UU+ Software Transmission Equipment for Networking 5 Prisons Formation (SHQ Radio Rooms, Anambra, Ebonyi, Makurdi, Nasarawa and Rivers)	N10,000.00
NPS/OPS/C/4/10	Construction of Shooting Range, Building of Trench to Accommodate 15 People and a Fortified Concrete Wall at the Shooting Site, Surrounded by Sand Dunes for Backup, Charging Room, 3 Toilets, 3 Bath, Quarter Guard (Security Post), Fencing of the Range Area With Wire Mesh and 3 Iron Gates at Kujama Farm Centre Kaduna State	N10,000.00
NPS/OPS/C/5/10	Construction of Shooting Range, Building of Trench to Accommodate 15 People and a Fortified Concrete Wall at the Shooting Site, Surrounded by Sand Dunes for Backup, Charging Room, 3 Toilets, 3 Bath, Quarter Guard (Security Post), Fencing of the Range Area With Wire Mesh and 3 Iron Gates at Prisons Armed Squad Training School Owerri, Imo State	N10,000.00

DIRECTORATE OF INMATES TRAINING AND PRODUCTIVITY

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/ITP/C/1/10	Construction of 2 Nos. (2 Units) of Bedroom Flats per Block Semi-Detached Staff Quarters at Bissalam Farm Centre	N10,000.00
NPS/ITP/C/2/10	Construction of Access Roads and Drainages at Dukpa MFC	N10,000.00
NPS/ITP/C/4/10	Construction of 2 Nos. (2 Units) 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow at Ago-Iwoye F.C	N10,000.00
NPS/ITP/C/5/10	Construction of 2 Units Cell Block, 3 Offices and Kitchen at Lamingo Agric Project	N10,000.00
NPS/ITP/C/6/10	Construction of 3 Bedroom Bungalow With BQ for Farm Manager at Bissalam F.C	N10,000.00
NPS/ITP/C/7/10	Procurement of 6 Nos. Tractors at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/ITP/C/8/10	Construction of a Semi House Carpentry/Machines Workshop to Include 2 Nos. Toilets, Iron Stanchions, Block Work, Ghana Roofing Zinc (Khaki Colour) Ceiling, Plastering, Flooring, Electrical, Plumbing, Iron Mongering, Doors and Windows and Painting Measuring (60x25x10) at Kuje Industrial Prison Complex	N10,000.00
NPS/ITP/C/35/10	Rehabilitation of 1 Block of 6 Nos. (2 Bedroom) Semidetached Bungalow of Dukpa	N10,000.00

PROCUREMENT UNIT

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/PU/C/1/10	Establishment, Renovation/Furnishing of Procurement Offices at Borno, Rivers, Kano, Niger, Ogun and Imo State Headquarters Offices	N10,000.00
NPS/PU/C/2/10	Establishment, Renovation/Furnishing of Procurement Offices at Kwara, Kogi, Lagos, Kaduna, Benue, Enugu, Sokoto, Katsina and Edo State Headquarters Offices	N10,000.00

DIRECTORATE OF WORKS AND LOGISTICS

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/WL/C/1/10	Supply of 3 Nos. 4x4 D.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted for Escort Duties Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol at PHQ Abuja (Lot 'A')	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/2/10	Supply of 3 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for Kano Central Prison, Maximum Security Prison Kirikiri Lagos, Ibadan Prison at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/3/10	Supply of 3 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for Jos Prison, Kaduna Central Prison and Port Harcourt Prison at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/4/10	Supply of 2 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for Ilesha Prison and New Prison Minna at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/5/10	Supply of 2 Nos. 4x4 D.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted for Escort Duties Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol at PHQ Abuja (Lot 'B')	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/8/10	Supply of 3 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for Jimeta Prison, Owo Prison and New Benin Prison at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/7/10	Supply of 2 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for Kuje Prison and Maximum Security Prison Maiduguri at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/8/10	Supply of 2 Nos. 4x4 D.C Pick-up Van A/C Fitted (Petrol Engine) for Escort Duties, Painted Metallic to Prison Colour (Auto Base) With 1 Full Tank of Petrol at PHQ Abuja (Lot 'C')	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/9/10	Supply of 3 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for Afikpo, Oyo and Ilorin Prisons at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/10/10	Supply of 3 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for New Prison Maiduguri, Enugu Prison and New Prison Benin at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/11/10	Supply of 2 Nos. 4x2 S.C Pick-up Van (Petrol Engine) A/C Fitted to be Constructed to Mini Black Maria Painted Metallic (Auto Base) to Prison Colour With 1 Full Tank of Petrol for Potiskum Medium Security Prison and Owerri Prison at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/12/10	Purchase of 1 No. FTR Water Tanker 15 Tones, 10,000 Litres and its Complete Accessories for Water Siphoning and Outlet Flow System (Pressurised Type) With 60 Metres Hose Painted Metallic to Prison Colour (Auto Base) With 1 Full Tank of AGO (Diesel) for Ibadan Prison at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/13/10	Purchase of 1 No. FTR Water Tanker 15 Tones, 10,000 Litres and its Complete Accessories for Water Siphoning and Outlet Flow System (Pressurised Type) With 60 Metres Hose Painted Metallic to Prison Colour (Auto Base) With 1 Full Tank of AGO (Diesel) for Biu Prison at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/14/10	Purchase of 1 No. NPR Steel Van (Diesel Engine) Trucks for Workshop Use to be Constructed to Steel Roof With Side Tarpaulin 6.5 Tones Painted Metallic to Prison Colour (Auto Base) With 1 Full Tank of AGO (Diesel) at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/15/10	Purchase of 1 No. NPR Steel Van (Diesel Engine) Trucks for Workshop Use to be Constructed to Steel Roof With Side Tarpaulin 6.5 Tones Painted Metallic to Prison Colour (Auto Base) With 1 Full Tank of AGO (Diesel) for Zone 'A' at PHQ, Abuja	N10,000.00
NPS/WL/C/16/10	Purchase of 1 No. FTR Steel Van (Diesel Engine) Trucks for Conveying of Goods to be Constructed to Steel Roof 15 Tones Painted Metallic to Prison Colour (Auto Base) With 1 Full Tank of AGO (Diesel) at PHQ Abuja	N10,000.00

NPS/WLC/25/10	Construction of Perimeter Fence (600m) at 80 Bed MSP Omoku	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/26/10	Completion of Admin Block Maximum Custody, Officer Station, Programme Hall, Internal Drains at 80 Bed MSP Omoku	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/27/10	Construction of CB 112 Dormitory at 80 Bed MSP Omoku	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/28/10	Construction of Long Span Aluminium Roofs to Medium Custody POD 'B' at 400 Bed MSP Ibadan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/29/10	Completion of Access Road/Drainage (1.3km) at 400 Bed MSP Ibadan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/30/10	Landscaping/Drainage to Admin/Sally Port at 400 Bed MSP Ibadan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/31/10	Construction of 3 Units 2 Bedroom Bungalow (Block 'A') at 400 Bed MSP Ibadan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/32/10	Construction of 3 Units 2 Bedroom Bungalow (Block 'B') at 400 Bed MSP Ibadan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/33/10	Completion/Energizing of the Electrification at 400 Bed MSP Ibadan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/34/10	Construction of Perimeter Fence (700m) at 160 Bed MSP Numan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/35/10	Construction of Access Road/Parking (180m) at 160 Bed MSP Numan	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/36/10	Extension of Parade Ground and Construction of Pavillion at Prison Academy, Ijebu-Igbo	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/37/10	Construction of 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Quarters at Prison Academy Ijebu-Igbo	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/38/10	Construction of Road Network/Drainages (1,500m) at Prison Academy Ijebu-Igbo	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/39/10	Grading/Earthwork for Sport Track/Football Field at Prison Academy Ijebu-Igbo	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/40/10	Construction of 2BR Semi Detached Bungalow Block 'A' at Prison Academy Ijebu-Igbo	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/41/10	Construction of 2BR Semi Detached Bungalow Block 'B' at Prison Academy Ijebu-Igbo	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/42/10	Construction of 2BR Semi Detached Bungalow Block 'C' at Prison Academy Ijebu-Igbo	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/43/10	Construction of 2 Units 2 Bedroom Flats Block 'E' at 160 Bed MSP Ilorin	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/44/10	Construction of 2 Units 2 Bedroom Flats Block 'F' at 160 Bed MSP Ilorin	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/45/10	Construction of Access Road to Staff Barracks (350m) at 160 Bed MSP Ilorin	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/46/10	Completion of Access Road (220 x 250m) at Ado-Ekiti Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/47/10	Construction of 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Block 'A' at Ado-Ekiti Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/48/10	Construction of 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow Block 'B' at Ado-Ekiti Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/49/10	Construction of Perimeter Fence (208m) at MSP Badagry	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/50/10	Reconstruction of Satellite Prison Composite Block at Zing Satellite Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/51/10	Erosion Control Drainage and Earthwork at Kikiri Medium and Female Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/52/10	Completion of Perimeter Fence at Yola New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/53/10	Construction of Storey Cell Block (212) at Yola New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/54/10	Demolition of Mud Cellblock and Construction of 4 Unit Cell Block at Ijebu-Ode Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/55/10	Extension/Rehabilitation of Admin Block at Owo Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/56/10	Construction of Perimeter Fence (200m) at Burra Satellite Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/57/10	Construction of 2 Unit Cell Block at Bida Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/58/10	Construction of Satellite Prison Cell Blocks/Admin With Composite Facilities at Saminaka Satellite Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/59/10	Construction of Student Hostel at BTI Ilorin	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/60/10	Construction of 3 Units Cell Block/Clinic at Ubiaja Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/61/10	Renovation of Admin Block at Ubiaja Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/62/10	Construction of Perimeter Fence (200m) at Kamba Satellite Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/63/10	Completion of Abandoned 4 Unit Cell Block at Gashua Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/64/10	Demolition/Reconstruction of Perimeter Fence (128.7m) at Tula Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/65/10	Construction of CB 136 to Replace Mud Blocks A & B at Aba Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/66/10	Construction of Composite Satellite Prison Facility at Ago Iwoye Farm Centre	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/67/10	Construction of 4 Unit Cell Block at Bama Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/68/10	Construction of 4 Unit Cell Block at Idah Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/69/10	Rehabilitation of SHQ Office/Furnishing of CP Office at Jos	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/70/10	Renovation of SHQ Office at Enugu Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/71/10	Reconstruction of Incharge Quarters at Enugu Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/72/10	Rehabilitation of Incharge Quarters at BTI Kaduna	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/73/10	Construction of 3 Unit 2 Bedroom Flats Block 'A' at Calabar SHQ	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/74/10	Construction of 3 Unit 2 Bedroom Flats Block 'B' at Calabar SHQ	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/75/10	Construction of Admin Block at Maiduguri New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/76/10	Construction of CB 212 Storey Building at Maiduguri New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/77/10	Construction of Prison Hospital at Maiduguri New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/78/10	Reconstruction of Cell Block 'A' at Maiduguri New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/79/10	Reconstruction of Cell Block 'B' at Maiduguri New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/80/10	Construction of 4 Unit Cell Block at Maiduguri New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/81/10	Construction of 3 Bedroom Bungalow (Incharge Quarters) at Maiduguri New Prison	N10,000.00
NPS/WLC/126/10	Rehabilitation of 'J' Block SHQ Barracks, Calabar	N10,000.00

DIRECTORATE OF ADMIN

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	PROCESSING FEE
NPS/APM&T/C/1/10	Construction of New Standard Parade Ground With Asphalt Surface and Two Pavilion Seating 500 persons for PTC, Lagos	N10,000.00
NPS/APM&T/C/2/10	Construction of New Standard Parade Ground With Asphalt Surface and Two Pavilion Seating 500 persons for PTS, Enugu	N10,000.00
NPS/APM&T/C/3/10	Construction of Library/Clinic/One Twin/Block of Hall at PTCK, Lagos	N10,000.00

4. Vendors are required to submit documents stated hereunder:-

- i) Full Details of Company Profile
- ii) Name, e-mail address and telephone number of contact person of the company.
- iii) Evidence to show company's registration in Nigeria (Certificate of Incorporation with CAC) and other legal authority to practice.
- iv) Firms to provide copies of tax clearance certificate for the immediate past three (3) years (2007, 2008 & 2009)
- v) Firms to provide Bid bond from their respective financial institutions
- vi) Evidence of Insurance affiliation.
- vii) Copies of VAT Registration/Evidence of Past performance for Projects completed
- viii) Company financial details and certified audited accounts for the last three (3) years (2007, 2008 & 2009)
- ix) Organizational Structure and available manpower.
- x) Detailed evidence of the company's ability to perform the identified services, including: Facilities Software, Hardware and personnel available to support the services where necessary.
- xi) Evidence of relevant experience in similar service and list of similar contracts executed in the last five (5) years with verifiable evidence.
- xii) Satisfactory performance documents or letter of commendation for previous works if any (from at least one or two clients)
- xiii) Any additional information that will enhance the potential of the firm
- xiv) A Sworn affidavit certifying that none of the Prison Procurement Staff is at present a Director or staff of the company.
- xv) Original Treasury Receipt of non-refundable tender processing fee of N10,000.00 only.

5. DOCUMENT: Bid documents should be obtained from Procurement Department and be submitted at the same address within four weeks of this publication.

Please Note:-

- Interested Applicants must indicate their company's name on the sealed envelop clearly marked Prisons Job with Code No.
- On the account that bid documents are submitted in any other location other than the address given hereunder makes the submission invalid.
- Notwithstanding the submission of the tender, Nigerian Prisons Service is neither committed nor obliged to include your company on any bidders list or to award any form of contract to your company and/or associated companies, subcontractors or agents.
- Prisons will deal only with authorized officers of the tendering companies and NOT through individuals or agents.

Interested vendors may wish to visit the location or site of the project, please.

6. Prospective firms are to pay non refundable processing fee of N10,000.00 only into Nigerian Prisons Service Account No. 0090010010640 with the Access Bank and obtain a Bank Teller. Thereafter obtain treasury receipt at the Prisons Cash Office PHQ, Abuja.

7. Tender submissions for works should be in sealed two (2) separate envelops for Technical and Financial capabilities (six copies each) while bids for supply jobs should only be for financial capability which should be addressed to **Head of Procurement, Nigerian Prisons Service, Prisons Headquarters, Block F, New Extension, Area 1 Old Secretariat, P. M. B. 16 Garki- Abuja.**

8. The Code No. of the project bidding for should be written at the top right hand corner of the envelop.

9. Tender opens from 5th April, 2010 and closes on the 30 April, 2010 at 12.00 noon. Tender Box opening follows immediately.

Bid Opening follows immediately:

This advertisement of 'Invitation for Tender' shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Ministry of Interior/Nigerian Prisons Service, nor shall it entitle bidders to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from Interior Ministry/Prisons and/or any of their partners by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement. Neither will the Ministry nor Nigerian Prisons Service incur any liability in an event that the procurement is cancelled.

NOTE: Photocopies of the processing fee receipt and acknowledge receipt obtained on submission of Tender must be kept and be presented before collection of award letters by successful bidders.

SIGNED
CONTROLLER GENERAL OF PRISONS
 For: Honourable Minister of Interior

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

Senate probes NNPC

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate will soon launch an investigation into the nation's earnings from the sale of crude oil from 2007 to date.

But the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo said at a public function last week that Nigeria has earned \$200 billion in the last ten years.

Daily Trust also reports that the NNPC is facing financial crisis which borders on unsettled debts and liabilities.

A motion sponsored by Senator Lee Meaba (PDP, Rivers South -East) chairman senate committee on petroleum upstream and 12 others will be debated next week when the lawmakers resume from their one-week recess.

The probe, according to lawmakers has become necessary following the consistent refusal of the Group Managing Director of the NNPC to furnish the upper legislative chamber with the necessary documents containing details of earnings from the sale of crude oil.

Senators also want Barkindo to proceed on casual leave pending the conclusion of investigation so as to prevent him from interfering with the investigation to allow for unhindered access to information.

Maeba alleged that the GMD has consistently refused to respond to queries on three occasions and also refused to furnish it with the report on quarterly basis as provided by the law.

The senators wants Senate to give the committee the legislative mandate and invoke provisions of section 88 of the 1999 constitution to institute a system wide inquest into the financial activities of the corporation from January 2007 to date.

The lawmakers want the committee to investigate the profile of all revenues from all sources accruing to and paid to NNPC including all income statements within the period under review; and allow an investigation into all records of crude oil sales and remittances into the Federation Account or other accounts within the period.

They also want investigation into all contracts and project approvals by the board of the NNPC including Joint Venture contracts as well as all bank lodgments including lodgments into stakeholders' accounts and the Central Bank of Nigeria for the period.

Investigation is also sought on all monies paid the corporation as well as all inter-



GROUP Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo

national approvals and intra corporation expenditure and audited accounts of the corporation for the period.

Section 88 of the 1999 constitution partly reads, "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, each House of the National Assembly shall have power by resolution published in its journal or in the Official Gazette of the Government of the Federation to direct or cause to be directed investigation into any matter or thing with respect to which it has power to make laws, the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry or government department charged, or intended to be

charged, with the duty of or responsibility for, executing or administering laws enacted by National Assembly."

Senators who have already signed in support of the motion include the Senate Leader, Senator Teslim Folarin, Deputy Leader, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba and Minority Leader, Senator Maina Ma'aji Lawan.

Others are Senators Kabiru Gaya, Festus Bode Ola, Isiaka Adeleke, Adeleke Mamora, Sidi Ali, Nimi Barigha-Amange, Annie Okonkwo and Simeon Ajibola.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 1212.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30(Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun);Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola:
 Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/ Sun); Yola-Lagos:
 Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat);
 Lagos-Maid: Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Maid-Lagos: Maid-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon/Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri),

Stock Market Index

Date: Friday, April 3, 2010
 Index: 25,966.25
 Deals: 10,252
 Volume: 408,781,638
 Value: N 2,754,413,169.09
 Cap.: N 6,280,598,749,995.20

Trust Index

Inflation → 12.3%
 GDP → 6.90%
 Budget → N3.1tr
 External Reserves Acct → \$41bn
 Excess Crude Acct → \$3.2bn
 Poverty Ratio → 54.4%
 Monetary Policy Rate → 6%
 Banks → 24
 Oil Price → \$80 a barrel
 Power Supply → 2,500MW
 Oil output per day → 2.5mbd
 Broad Money Supply → N10,796,734.5m
 Credit to Private Sector → N10,018,035.3m
 Inter-Bank Rate → 1.1600%
 Treasury Bills → 2.02%
 Deposit Rate → 12.28%
 Prime Lending Rate → 18.38%

CBN

31/3/2010

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2842	0.2942	0.3042
DANISH KRONER	26.6742	26.7647	26.8552
EURO	198.6635	199.3379	200.0122
POUNDS STERLING	223.351	224.1092	224.8673
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467
SDR	223.6309	224.39	225.1491
SWISS FRANC	139.0541	139.5261	139.9981
US DOLLAR	147.3	147.8	148.3
WAUA	223.3905	224.1488	224.9071
YEN	1.5762	1.5816	1.5869

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N150
EURO.....	N204
POUNDS.....	N230
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N151
EURO.....	N206
POUNDS.....	N232

Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.

Business/Power

I don't believe we have failed Nigerians – PHCN boss

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

YOUR appointment as the Chief Executive of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) was largely seen as aimed at repositioning the organization, especially towards the realization of the presidential mandate of delivering 6,000MW of electricity by December last year. With the apparent failure to achieve this mandate how do you feel?

Well I don't believe we have actually failed. Our mandate was to repair the units to be able to generate the 6000MW. Presently, we have three hydro power stations and four thermal stations under the control of the PHCN. With regards to the Presidential mandate we had very limited time and the only thing we could do was to rehabilitate some of the broken down units. By December 31st we were able to get capability of the units totalling about 5,500MW which means if we had enough gas and water we would have been able to generate to the public up to 5,500MW. We had a shortfall at our Sapele and Afan power stations.

Shell Afan-six which had promised to increase its capacity by 250MW could not complete that work due to a few challenges. Therefore, we were unable to attain the 6,000MW. But even then towards the last week of December we were able to generate up to 3,710MW which was, of course short by so much. All the hydro units were in full blast which means we had enough water to be able to generate all our hydro units by more than what was allocated to each of the hydro units. But it was at the thermal units which we had challenges primarily gas issue. As you already know we don't have enough gas to generate the full capability of the thermal units.

What I am trying to point out is that we in PHCN were given funds to rehabilitate these units but somebody else was given funds to get the gas and we had no control over their own activities. We could not have gone to them to say look we now see you can't do it so let us take over. We even held meetings regularly with them. So even on a lighter mood I believe that if a WAEC candidate scores 5,500 over 6,000; that is about 92 percent and by that WAEC would give you excellent. So it means we have not really failed in our mandate.

What have been your greatest challenges so far at the PHCN?

Well, the greatest challenge we face today as managers of the Nigerian Power sector is

inadequate generation to please Nigerians. To Nigerians whatever you do; whatever happens at the PHCN if there is no enough generation then as far as they are concerned you have failed. When we attained 3,700MW in December everybody was saying yes we haven't achieved much yet but at least we are getting light more than before. A few months later when gas became a challenge we went down again. But I am happy that now we have gotten gas and we are up again to about 3,500MW. So our primary challenge is how to improve on the generation and this is where we are pleased with the recent initiative from the CBN which offered to assist with the sum of N500billion to assist any investor on a quick wind basis to provide additional generation capacity.

Following the gesture we went to the CBN together with the former Power Minister and congratulated them and also highlighted a few issues. For instance we needed to know the exact location where the CBN proposed to cite the various power plants so as to access the capability of our facilities to connect to the industries. We are really happy with the CBN initiative because it will solve an immediate problem of generation capacity in the country. Of course there are other issues related to power generation such as license to generate, logistics to provide fuel, operation of the plant and power purchase agreement with the intended customer. But we believe the CBN has already taken care of those things.

Some people have called for the deregulation of the power sector; particularly the privatisation of PHCN. What is your take on this?

The former Power Minister issued a directive to the management of PHCN to accelerate and conclude discussions on Gas Supply and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) and Gas Transportation Agreement (GTA) with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). How far with the agreements?

“So even on a lighter mood I believe that if a WAEC candidate scores 5,500 over 6,000; that is about 92 percent and by that WAEC would give you excellent. So it means we have not really failed in our mandate.

I think what they are actually calling for is the power sector reforms and this has been going on for sometimes now. We have gone far with the reforms; some of the achievements recorded include the passing of the Power Sector Reform Act in 2005. It provides for the unbundling of the then vertically integrated NEPA into autonomous generation, transmission and distribution companies. Each company has been registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission and they receive capital grant directly from the federal government.

They also do their procurement exercise on their own without reference to the corporate headquarters. PHCN now operates a shadow electricity market and the major challenging issue for them to completely sever links with the headquarters would be after all labour issues are addressed. Similarly, the Act provides for the establishment of the Regulator's office and we now have the office of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). The Commission has produced a number of documents that will be used for operations in a sophisticated electricity market.

These include, electricity operating codes such as the Grid Code, the Distribution Code, Use of Transmission Service Model, Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), Vesting Contracts etc. Similarly, the Act provides for the establishment of the Rural Electricity Agency which is meant to provide off-grid power to rural areas. Therefore, the power sector reform has gone far and we are making progress every day.

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ENGINEER Hussein Labo

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This is part of the ongoing exercise between the 4 thermal generation companies and the gas providers. Discussions are still ongoing and a lot of progress has been made. I understand they are still working on a few issues which have to do with the long term gas price as contained in the Gas Master Plan. We believe that if this is concluded they will get adequate and quality gas for their operations just like other domestic consumers in the country.

Some people have alleged that there are deliberate attempts by saboteurs to jeopardise the power sector reforms by frustrating efforts at gas availability. What do you think?

Yes sometime ago before the amnesty came into play there was a time when the guys there were bursting pipelines that were taking power to our plants and they would not even let Nigerian Gas Company go and see to find out where the pipelines were vandalized. So even to get access to the place to effect repairs of the damaged pipes was not possible. In some cases the pipes were busted in about fifteen places.

There was even a time when our Sapele power plant was down for nine months because of the activities of the vandals. So I agree that there were elements of sabotage but that has considerably gone down with the federal government's amnesty programme. The major oil companies are now trying

to develop their gas wells so as to be able to get more gas and provide same for the domestic market.

Some years ago government policy was to sell the gas through the LNG so as to get the dollars and come and develop our economy. But this policy is now being reviewed through the gas master plan which provides for a certain amount and price of gas which the PHCN will have to pay. This is all part of what will come in the agreement with the gas companies and the power plants.

Sometime last year the Federal Government approved funds for 9 different power projects aimed at meeting the presidential mandate of 6,000MW and 10,000MW by 2010. What is the update on these projects?

These plants were actually part of the NIPP that were started during the Obasanjo administration. Unfortunately due to the House probe report on power work was suspended but it is being revived. I am aware a lot of progress has been made; in fact one of the plants at Sapele is expected to start operation in the next two to three months.

Actually these projects are being handled by the Niger Delta Power Holding Company which is a parent company of the NIPP. The mandate of 6000MW was to be achieved through the repairs and rehabilitation of old PHCN plants but could not be achieved due largely to limited time.

However, for the mandate to generate 10,000MW by 2011 to be realised we definitely need new plants and this is where the plants presently being constructed through the NIPP comes in relevant.

Business/International

Ghana gold production rose 12% in 2009

GOLD production in Ghana, Africa's second biggest producer of the precious metal, rose 12 percent in 2009, with output at the country's two biggest mines increasing.

Ghana's mines produced 2.9 million ounces, compared with 2.6 million a year earlier, according to data from the Ghana Chamber of Mines handed to Bloomberg yesterday. Revenue rose to \$2.8 billion from \$2.2 billion.

Gold Fields Ltd.'s mine at Tarkwa, Ghana's biggest, saw production increase 0.8 percent to 664,515 ounces, the data showed. Newmont Mining Corp's Ahafo mine produced 531,470 ounces of gold in 2009, up from 524,000 a year earlier.

Revenue at the Ghana Bauxite Co. fell to \$10.9 million, from \$19.8 million a year earlier as production declined 29 percent to 490,367 metric tons, according to the data. While output at the Ghana Manganese Co. dropped 7 percent to 1 million tons, revenue climbed to \$64.9 million from \$62.3 million.

Diamond production slid to 354,443 carats from 598,042 carats a year earlier, cutting revenue by 63 percent to \$7 million. South Africa is the continent's biggest gold producer.

(Africa-Invest)



PRESIDENT John Attah Mills of Ghana

Recession stimulates our investment in Africa, says HP boss

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE current global economic crisis which has afflicted untoward hardship to many companies worldwide has rather stimulated growth in Hewlett Packard Company, says Mr. Rainer Koch, Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Africa.

Koch, speaking at the company's just concluded 6th Executive Annual Conference Technology in Banjul, the Gambia where it revealed its growth strategy to its customers and partners, noted that HP has developed structures and institutions that enable it withstand the hazards of the global financial meltdown.

A statement issued by the company quoted him as saying: "Each crisis has risks and opportunities. In HP we saw it as an opportunity. As the biggest IT Company in the world, we always plan for the future and it did not come to us as a surprise. Generally HP products are well accepted in the market and we

gained market share as well as meet our target profit, year on year. At this time we believe we are even getting stronger despite the crisis," he said.

According to him, for Africa, what HP takes out of the crisis is that in order to be stronger, the company looked forward for the global market to emerge in regions and Africa surpassed other regions. "So we decided to invest more in Africa despite the crisis because we see potential market in it."

The conference, which has Intel as major sponsor is titled: "Thriving in Unpredictability."

Justifying the theme, Koch told the gathering comprising of Key customers and partners, that HP has witnessed tremendous growth as exemplified in the company's quarterly results due to be made public soon. On strategy to further the growth of the company in Africa, Koch revealed that HP will like to bring its entire products and services portfolio from other parts of the world to Africa and to establish

its presence here. "The strategy is to make our presence more prominent in Africa. Basically, we are present in almost all countries except countries where there are embargo on our products and our services are available through distributors, partners and subsidiaries and we are planning to establish 10 more subsidiaries in the next two to three years in various countries of Africa," he said. This, he said, is to further emphasize the level of investment to be done in Africa.

He described Nigeria's market as very significant for HP as it constitutes the second biggest market for HP in Africa after South Africa. HP's products, according to him, are number one and well accepted in the entire market it operates. He said "nowadays, our customers can buy all HP products and services either directly from HP or our partners anywhere in Africa and have the same experience in terms of products and support services as customers from other parts of the world."

Nigeria-US forum to boost investment - Consultant

STAKEHOLDERS have begun effort to strengthen the Nigeria-U.S. trade and Investments Framework Agreement (TIFA), an official said.

Toward this end, a high level private and public sector delegation from Nigeria will be going on an investment mission to the U.S. aimed at boosting investments between both countries.

The mission tagged "The First U.S.A.-Nigeria Business Forum," is organised by the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Organised Private Sector (OPS).

The mission will focus on 14 sectors of the Nigerian economy for investments, the Consultant to the forum, Chief Polusho Abiri told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja on Saturday.

The sectors featuring at the forum, which will hold from April 13 to 22 in three U.S. states - Georgia, Texas and Illinois, are tourism/hospitality, power/energy, solid mineral/mining, ICT/telecoms, aviation/transport and SME Development.

Others are Banking/Financing, infrastructure, construction, agriculture/agribusiness, health/pharmaceutical, oil/gas, maritime/port development, environment and insurance.

Abiri said the aim of the forum was to enhance business and investment relations between both countries.

He said the forum would enable big Nigerian companies to meet their U.S. counterparts and offer medium and small-scale business people opportunities to explore the possibilities of exporting to the American market.

"It will also enable them to meet international finance institutions, such as the American EXIM Bank that is ready to finance the supply of machines and equipment to these companies to enable them to produce to American specifications," he said.

Abiri described as "unfortunate" the inability of Nigeria to take advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) law enacted since 2000 to enable the country to penetrate the U.S. market.

He also said the business forum would be an opportunity to address the problems confronting Nigeria from the American perspective and find lasting solutions to them.

He said the forum would provide a platform for the presentation to American leaders and senior policy makers of the wide array of investment opportunities in Nigeria.

"It will also provide a platform for the discussion of ways in which these opportunities can be realised and the balance of trade increased," he said.

NAN reports that Nigeria is largest trading partner of the U.S. in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2000, the TIFA agreement was signed between both countries as part of a comprehensive U.S. effort to support Nigeria's efforts to advance trade and economic development.

During the meeting between both countries in Washington, the two sides discussed common objectives, including cooperation in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), AGOA, market access, intellectual property rights and improving the bilateral trade climate, among others. (NAN).

South Africa, China sign deal worth \$315.3 million

SOUTH Africa and China signed 2.3 billion-rand (\$315.3 million) worth of deals that will result in South Africa supplying mohair, fish and abalone to its biggest trading partner, Business Day reported.

A total of 26 companies were involved in yesterday's accords, including producers of wine, copper, manganese, granite blocks, ferrochrome and lobster, the Johannesburg-based newspaper said, citing Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies.

Chinese trade with South Africa totalled \$16 billion last year, the newspaper said, citing Jia Qinglin, chairman of the national committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. (Africa-Invest).

Tunisia buys wheat and barley in snap tender

TUNISIA'S state grains agency on at the weekend purchased 25,000 tonnes of soft wheat and 25,000 tonnes of barley, both of optional origins, for shipments between June and July, European traders said.

The wheat was bought at \$191.49 a tonne, cost and freight included, from Eurograni for a July 1-10 shipment if the origin is European or a July 5-15 shipment for Black Sea origin.

The state grains agency also bought barley at \$165.87 a tonne, cost and freight included, from Cargill for a June 20-30 shipment for European origin and June 25-July 5 for Black Sea origin.

Traders said that Tunisia was originally looking for 92,000 tonnes of wheat and 42,000 tonnes of barley. The North African have come to the market several times in recent weeks, taking advantage of bouts of market sell-off to launch snap tenders. Reuters

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, April 1, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	14	0.53	735,000	397,880.00
SECTOR Totals	14		735,000	397,880.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCES. PLC	48	1.07	5,541,237	6,022,736.10
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	16	0.70	374,260	266,781.55
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	920	19,890.40
PRESKO PLC	16	6.50	1,057,515	6,725,840.84
SECTOR Totals	81		6,973,932	13,035,248.89
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERVICES & LOG. PLC	12	2.73	315,751	869,848.23
NIG. AV. HANDLING COY PLC	138	11.03	1,789,112	19,689,392.68
SECTOR Totals	150		2,104,863	20,559,240.91
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	196	11.14	10,228,835	112,821,252.70
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	64	2.56	2,252,508	5,776,722.05
DIAMOND BANK PLC	80	9.55	5,087,236	48,546,984.32
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	53	6.90	482,211	3,317,045.87
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	72	9.10	2,050,900	18,517,821.10
FIDELITY BANK PLC	240	3.49	19,029,104	63,791,495.01
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	681	16.70	9,175,370	151,034,487.87
FINBANK PLC	103	0.64	6,861,507	4,411,973.33
GTBANK PLC	449	21.60	8,400,547	181,133,859.75
STANBIC IBC BANK PLC	54	11.11	1,937,661	21,433,202.10
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	73	2.18	1,750,772	3,713,412.81
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	141	1.95	7,417,288	14,458,045.69
BANK PHB PLC	105	1.61	4,384,161	7,130,024.55
SKYE BANK PLC	126	8.20	4,527,925	36,181,960.59
SPRING BANK PLC	12	1.03	190,479	196,071.49
STERLING BANK PLC	109	2.80	7,854,580	21,326,072.59
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	293	14.80	13,629,008	199,700,222.23
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	170	5.97	3,723,456	21,626,567.76
UNITYBANK PLC	13	1.00	263,942	264,705.00
WEMA BANK PLC	53	1.00	1,826,313	1,841,991.70
ZENITH BANK PLC	375	19.30	13,297,163	253,841,753.92
SECTOR Totals	3,462		124,370,966	1,171,065,672.43
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	101	21.50	2,705,317	55,704,473.54
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	37	61.00	168,984	10,425,534.16
CEM. CO. OF N/NIGERIA PLC	109	23.00	2,722,684	61,049,147.81
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	59	35.50	1,252,946	44,072,728.90
SECTOR Totals	306		6,849,931	171,251,884.41
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	3	5.67	22,000	124,740.00
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	2	29.67	1,764	52,717.08
DN MEYER PLC	7	3.23	104,866	338,717.18
NIG.-GERM. CHEM. PLC	2	14.29	341	4,630.78
SECTOR Totals	14		128,971	520,805.04
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	3	8.13	10,498	85,408.74
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	18	0.58	798,432	447,377.60
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY PLC	3	4.37	10,296	42,831.36
SECTOR Totals	24		819,226	575,617.70
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	12	4.00	145,078	580,312.00
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	45	30.42	385,909	11,676,095.78
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	416	3,444.48
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	36	0.52	3,961,760	2,039,632.20
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	94	50.50	2,302,027	116,045,482.95
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	147	31.29	3,931,532	118,107,085.50
SECTOR Totals	335		10,726,722	248,452,052.91
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	162	6.50	4,380,896	28,037,210.18
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	48	36.44	704,218	25,542,169.83
SECTOR Totals	214		7,091,114	54,582,380.01
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC				
SECTOR Totals	214		7,091,114	54,582,380.01
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	2	3.26	102,502	332,206.00
NIGERIAN WIRE & CABLE PLC	14	0.56	1,648,641	912,718.96
SECTOR Totals	16		1,751,143	1,244,924.96
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	15	33.73	87,791	3,098,586.37
BIG TREAT PLC	58	1.02	2,974,321	2,955,757.33
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	70	18.20	669,415	12,156,290.28
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	244	19.00	6,155,202	116,294,583.75
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	121	19.00	5,583,473	104,567,096.21
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	87	64.00	938,179	58,018,351.25
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	34	9.00	154,365	1,383,047.20
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	139	8.80	6,932,322	59,884,078.24
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	20	32.60	36,645	1,163,771.10
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	43	270.00	581,750	151,324,422.36
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	7	32.32	111,000	3,579,870.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	94	1.38	5,766,480	7,859,155.13
UIC NIGERIA PLC	10	0.75	246,950	185,212.50
SECTOR Totals	942		30,237,893	522,470,221.72
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	4	1.38	56,000	77,280.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	59	3.58	3,587,913	12,782,750.31
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	18	27.56	92,356	2,597,308.56

What is income stock?

A security with a solid record of dividend payments and which offers a dividend yield higher than the average common stock.

Google.com

MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	25	5.83	225,550	1,344,981.50
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	12	1.85	40,296	78,174.24
UN/DIAGN. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	61	0.76	5,984,886	4,513,931.66
SECTOR Totals	179		6,987,001	21,394,426.27
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	2	3.53	53,566	183,149.40
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	6	2.27	144,600	328,242.00
SECTOR Totals	8		198,166	511,391.40
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	9.35	4,700	43,987.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	6	0.53	70,550	38,802.50
VITAFIAM NIGERIA PLC	8	5.87	50,000	281,060.00
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	2	0.58	47,500	26,600.00
SECTOR Totals	18		172,750	390,449.50
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	67	0.78	5,539,505	4,130,746.94
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	3,338,334	1,669,167.00
STARCOMMS PLC	30	2.65	585,075	1,494,319.85
SECTOR Totals	99		9,462,914	7,294,233.79
INSURANCE				
AFR. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	2	0.50	200,000	100,000.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	113	1.30	11,291,498	14,869,501.26
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	17	0.94	4,533,360	4,328,692.20
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC	31	0.59	7,112,086	4,164,791.30
CUST. AND ALL. INS. PLC	17	3.95	774,611	3,056,519.29
GREAT NIG. INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	3,000,000	1,500,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	72	0.82	25,213,465	20,401,992.57
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	57	3.40	18,725,767	63,588,899.07
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
CONS. HALLM. INS. PLC	3	0.50	82,500	41,250.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	42	0.57	2,865,842	1,626,831.39
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	35	0.50	3,266,229	1,661,106.29
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	24	0.52	6,070,857	3,247,445.64
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC.	2	0.50	184,000	92,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASS. PLC	68	0.60	10,159,913	5,932,013.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	70	0.61	11,798,506	7,111,560.78
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	9	0.81	334,976	265,281.28
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	0.97	100,000	97,000.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	6	3.42	29,299	99,140.76
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	290,000	145,000.00
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	4	0.50	294,500	147,250.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	14	0.50	561,700	280,850.00
STAND. ALL. INSUR. PLC	20	0.50	1,192,204	596,102.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	19	0.78	11,810,650	9,534,556.10
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	0.56	10,000,000	5,600,000.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	2	0.50	220,000	110,000.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	7	0.93	112,000	104,160.00
SECTOR Totals	639		130,273,963	148,726,942.93
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	55	3.50	7,088,491	24,819,340.23
SECTOR Totals	55		7,088,491	24,819,340.23
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	385	1.62	22,840,580	38,326,620.66
SECTOR Totals	385		22,840,580	38,326,620.66
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	80	1.20	1,334,917	1,601,510.40
SECTOR Totals	80		1,334,917	1,601,510.40
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	22	0.65	2,808,864	1,857,465.00
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	7	0.50	1,150,000	575,000.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	52	0.90	9,567,398	8,708,208.97
SECTOR Totals	81		13,526,262	11,140,673.97
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	2,557	3.83	10,932,314	39,492,760.35
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	12	14.33	208,919	2,967,705.85
SECTOR Totals	2,569		11,141,233	42,460,466.20
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	39	40.98	55,031	2,142,907.14
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	19	1.98	617,948	1,144,631.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	8	69.79	3,602	254,515.58
CONOIL PLC	14	44.00	13,322	562,964.63
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	33	9.06	212,088	1,913,220.34
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	7	107.64	4,775	488,291.50
OANDO PLC	59	85.00	521,647	44,551,141.01
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	7	149.00	46,926	7,372,074.60
SECTOR Totals	186		1,475,339	58,429,745.80
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	3	8.22	23,893	205,683.19
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	18	7.32	785,415	5,485,200.62
SECTOR Totals	21		809,308	5,690,883.81
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	9	23.80	32,153	736,246.65
SECTOR Totals	9		32,153	736,246.65
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	11	0.99	123,044	122,545.86
SECTOR Totals	11		123,044	122,545.86
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	23	18.55	865,449	16,189,150.58
SECTOR Totals	23		865,449	16,189,150.58
OVERALL Totals	10,252		408,781,638	2,754,413,169.09

GAINERS

FLOURMILL	2.94
JBERGER	1.71
NNFM	1.53
UNILEVER	

Star Feature

NECO: Is this a sign of things to come?

This year NECO recorded a stunning 98% failure rate in the annual exams which the body conducts. Our reporter examines the issues.

By Nathaniel Jonah

THE time was 10:45am on a Tuesday morning and Emeka Okafor did not display any sign that he was late for school, as he saunter along the busy Karu Jikwoyi road, with his three friends chatting clamorously. A quick glance at the badges glued to their dirty school uniform reveals that they are students of Government secondary school, Jikwoyi. Obviously irked by the carefree attitude of the students who were clearly late for school and still strolling leisurely along the street, Istifanus Baba, a business man nearby uttered "this world has really changed for the worse. Can you imagine these children still walking comfortably along the road at this time of the day? And these ones too would call themselves students. During my days, these things are forbidden; punctuality to school was the order of the day."

The story of Emeka and his friends is not different from that of Jude Adeyemi, a 14 year old student of Government Secondary School, Lugbe, Abuja who has formed the habit of sneaking out from the school premises during school hours with his friends, to a makeshift cinema in the neighborhood where they relish the latest home videos in town.

Emeka and Jude are but a few examples of countless Nigerian students who are gradually discarding the culture of academic diligence, which has invariably



FOR instance, UNESCO recommends that 26 percent of any country's budget should be allocated to the education sector, but instead what do you have in Nigeria?

given rise to the increasing tide of poor academic performance in the schools.

With the culture of academic earnestness fading, more and more students are having

difficulty passing their examinations. For most students, especially high school students in Nigeria, it is easier for the camel to pass through the eye of the needle, than scoring good grades in their examinations.

Caught in the inauspicious

web of examination failures is Paul Idehen, 19 year old candidate of the senior school certificate examination, SSCE who has attempted to scale through the examinations, without success. Thrice he enrolled for the West African Examinations

Council, WAEC, and thrice he failed woefully without scoring the mandatory credit in the compulsory subjects of English language and Mathematics, which would guarantee him admission into the university. While bemoaning his fate, Paul

lamented "Honestly, I don't know what to do again, imagine, I have done this exam three times and I did not have a credit in English and mathematics. I am really getting frustrated. My parents are beginning to complain and give up on me, espe-

cially now that my younger sister too is preparing for the same examinations.”

Also sharing Paul's anxiety is Muktar Bello, a final year student of Government Secondary School, Nyanya who is apprehensive of sitting for the upcoming SSCE exams as a result of the failure rate of his friends. According to him, “I am very worried about the impending exams. I am scared I might not pass my papers, because all I hear around are stories of friends and relatives who could not pass their papers. It is really very disturbing,” he said.

Only recently, the nation woke up to the unfortunate news of mass failure of students who enrolled for the National Examination Council, NECO examinations. According to the registrar of the examination body, Professor Promise Okala, only 4,223 out of 234,682 candidates, representing 1.8 percent, passed with five credits and above, including English and Mathematics which are mandatory for university admission in the country.

But while the unimpressive results continue to generate outcry and condemnation from Nigerians including Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Education, Hon. Farouk Lawan who described the results as “very disappointing and not worth celebrating”, other stake holders in the education sector have alluded the absence of reading culture among students, as a major factor responsible for the woeful performance.

According to Bello Lawal, an Abuja based educationist who also claimed to be a member of the All Nigeria committee of Principals of Secondary Schools, ANCOPSS, “The truth is that the reading culture in Nigeria is generally poor. To make it worse, these days, most of our students hardly read. Instead they waste their precious time watching television or films, listening to music, playing video/computer games and surfing the Internet for unproductive programmes.”

Speaking further, Lawal said that “there are several factors which compete for the students' attention, especially in this age of information technology. You discover that an average student in Nigeria spends more time browsing the Internet or watching television or playing video games, instead of reading their books. To many people, reading is an old fashioned thing and as long as these factors are there, we cannot record any appreciable improvement in examination success among our students.”

Another educationist, Mahmud Mohammed attributed the dismal performance in the NECO examinations, to the lackadaisical attitude of the government, and its refusal to adequately fund the education sector. According to him, “on sev-



ONLY 4,223 out of 234,682 candidates, representing 1.8 percent, passed with five credits and above.

eral occasions, we clamored for the improved budgetary allocation to the education sector, but all these have fallen on deaf ears. For instance, UNESCO recommends that 26 percent of any country's budget should be allocated to the education sector, but instead what do you have in Nigeria? Governments paying lip service to the education sector. Other countries who understand the importance of education have taken proactive steps to adequately fund their education sector. For instance Ghana has allocated 29 percent to its education sector, even far more than the UNESCO recommendation. The same thing with countries like South Africa and Botswana who allocate 35 percent and 37 percent, respectively, to their education sector. So until

these things are implemented, we would continue to mortgage the future of our children.”

Apparently trying to absolve the government from any complicity, former minister of state for education, Hajiya Aisha Dukku said that an investigation would be launched by the government to identify those responsible for the unfortunate performance in the examinations. According to her, “We have, however, said that whoever is responsible for this mass failure, whether it is the head of department, a teacher or a chief executive will face the law because the government cannot be spending huge amount of money on our schools and yet the outcome is nothing. If we are to be among the world's

largest economies by the year 2020, education should be the driving force. The drivers cannot be those that are performing poorly in their examinations. The drivers cannot be half-baked; they have to be well-equipped and it is only through education that they can be. So, we are ready to face this failure squarely and find solutions to the causes.”

Also joining the blame game, Ahmed Ibrahim, a teacher in a private secondary school in Jabi told *Daily Trust* “I felt very bad about the NECO result. All of us should be blamed. The irregular academic calendar as a result of the constant industrial actions by the teachers too did not help matters. For most of the last session, teachers across the country went on a nationwide strike to demand for implementation of the new Teachers Salary Scale (TSS). Most of the schools were shut and students sent home as many of them ended up roaming about, engaged in street hawking, child labor and other anti-social acts to the detriment of their education.”

Also speaking on the thorny issue, Nnenna Obilor, a final year student of Great Heights Academy, Abuja, said that “the reason why mass failure in examinations keep occurring,

is because, most times, there is a lack of connection between the teachers and the students. The teachers are always in a hurry to teach and fulfill their obligations, and then move on to other business to supplement their income, thereby leaving the students still thirsty for more knowledge.”

But for Chika Nwanobi, a mathematics teacher at Bright Kiddies Academy, Kuje, the problem of falling grades in examinations goes beyond the students' cognitive ability. In his view the decaying infrastructure in most secondary schools are directly responsible for the problem. In his words, “a visit to most government secondary school will show to you that the government is not serious with education in Nigeria. For instance, the basic teaching aid that will facilitate knowledge transfer from teachers to students are simply nonexistent. The laboratories are poorly equipped, some science students have never seen test tubes before, even the physical infrastructures like classrooms and libraries are nothing to write home about. So with these factors in place, how do you expect the students to perform brilliantly in examinations? It is just not possible.”

“The truth is that the reading culture in Nigeria is generally poor. To make it worse, these days, most of our students hardly read. Instead they waste their precious time watching television or films.”

Business/Aviation

IATA expresses frustration over US-EU pact

AS the United States of America and the European Union entered into the second stage of Open Skies Agreement with Memorandum of Consultations, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has stated that the agreement is not really beneficial to its members.

According to the Director General and CEO of IATA, Giovanni Bisignani: "It is disappointing that at this critical time, we did not make significant progress on the issue of ownership. The agreement was not a step backwards, but it did not move us forward. The long-term financial sustainability of the industry is dependent on normal commercial freedoms. I urge both governments to-keep this on the radar screen for urgent follow-up."

Bisignani stated that IATA welcomed the reaffirmation within the agreement that environmental issues leading up to COP-16 should continue to be addressed through the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

"ICAO is the right forum to reach a global sectoral approach to deal with aviation's carbon emissions. I welcome the agreement's reaffirmation of this as the industry continues to pursue its ambitious environmental targets to improve fuel efficiency by 1.5% per year to 2020, cap net emissions from 2020 with carbon neutral growth and cut net carbon emissions in half by 2050 compared to 2005," said Bisignani.

“The agreement was not a step backwards, but it did not move us forward.”

Expert calls for improved security at airports

AN expert in the aviation industry, Mr Olumide Ohunayo, on Sunday, called on the federal government to improve security at airports.

In an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ikeja, the expert said improved security would protect passengers and aircraft from external invasion.

"Government needs to tighten security in all our airports across the country, the Calabar airport incident of last week shows that security operatives were not on ground," he said.

Ohunayo, a former President of the Cabin Crew Association of Nigeria (CCAN) was reacting to the incident at Margaret Ekpo International Airport, Calabar.

A taxi driver rammed his car into an Arik Air Abuja-bound Boeing 737 aircraft on the tarmac of the airport.

He said a comprehensive investigation should be carried out to unravel the motive behind the incident, saying those found guilty should be brought to book. He urged security operatives at the airport to be more proactive. (NAN)

Domestic airlines record low patronage on Easter Sunday

DOMESTIC airlines at the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja recorded low patronage on Easter Sunday.

A check by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) shows that few travellers purchased tickets while counters of some of the airlines were empty.

A ticketing officer with the Aero Contractor, who simply gave her name as Roseline, told NAN that the airline did not sell many tickets on Easter Sunday.

She said the airline had last Thursday and Friday recorded high patronage.

"We recorded a lot of sales last week because we

had a lot of people who were travelling; there were long queues of air travellers jostling for flight tickets.

"I hope that by Monday, activities will return to the terminal," she said.

At the General Aviation Terminal, workers were idle because of the low patronage.

An Arik Air worker, who pleaded anonymity, said that the drop in passenger traffic on Sunday was expected.

"It is a normal thing during festive periods; many people have already travelled since Friday, that is why you see the terminal so empty," he told NAN.

Meanwhile, international airlines at the airport enjoyed much business as the arrival and departure halls were full of activities.

Many passengers were seen waiting for their flights while aircraft landed with many passengers. (NAN).

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Succeeding Together



Business

Billionaires who live cheaply

At least once in your life - maybe even once a week or once a day for that matter - you have fantasized about coming into a lot of money. What would you do if you were worth millions or even billions? Believe it or not there are millionaires and billionaires among us who masquerade as relatively normal, run-of-the-mill people. Take a peek at some of the most frugal wealthy people in the world.

WARREN Buffett

MILLIONS of people read Buffett's books and follow his firm, Berkshire Hathaway's, every move. But the real secret to Buffett's personal fortune may be his penchant for frugality.

Buffett, who is worth an estimated \$47 billion, eschews opulent homes and luxury items. He and his wife still live in their modest home in Omaha, Nebraska which they purchased for just \$31,500 more than 50 years ago.

Although he's dined in the best restaurants around the globe, given the choice he would opt for a good burger and fries accompanied by a cold cherry Coke.

When asked why he doesn't own a yacht



he responded "Most toys are just a pain in the neck." Find out how he went from selling soft drinks to buying up companies and making billions of dollars.

CARLOS Slim

WHILE most of the world is very familiar with Bill Gates, the name Carlos Slim rarely rings a bell. But it's a name worth knowing. Slim, who is a native of Mexico, was just named the world's richest billionaire - that's right, richer than the uber-famous Microsoft founder. Slim is worth more than \$53 billion and while he could afford the world's most extravagant luxuries he rarely indulges.

He, like Buffett, doesn't own a yacht or plane and he has lived in the same home for over 40 years.



CHUCK Feeney

GROWING up in the wake of The Depression as an Irish-American probably has something to do with Feeney's frugality.

With a personal motto of "I set out to work hard, not get rich," the co-founder of Duty Free Shoppers has quietly become a billionaire but even more secretively given almost all of it away through his foundation, Atlantic Philanthropies.

In addition to giving more than \$600 million to his alma mater Cornell University, he has given billions to schools, research departments and hospitals.

Loath to spend if he doesn't have to, Feeney beats both Buffett and Kamprad in the donation category, giving out less money than only Ford and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations.

A frequent user of public transportation, Mr. Feeney flies economy class, buys clothes from retail stores, and does not waste money on an extensive shoes closet, stating "you can only wear one pair of shoes at a time". He raised his children in the same way; making them work the same normal summer jobs as most teens.



INGVAR Kamprad

The founder of the Swedish furniture phenomenon Ikea struck success with affordable, assemble-it-yourself furniture.

For Kamprad, figuring out how to save money isn't just for his customers, it's a high personal value.

He's been quoted as saying "Ikea people do not drive flashy cars or stay at luxury hotels." That goes for the founder as well. He flies coach for business and when he needs to get around town locally he either takes the bus or will head out in his 15-year-old Volvo 240 GL.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The dirty little secret of some of the world's wealthiest people is that they rarely act like it. Instead of over-the-top spending, they're busy figuring out how to save and invest to have that much more in the future.

It's a habit you might want to consider in order to build up your own little storehouse of cash. *Yahoo.*

Business/Maritime

Customs boss inspects Cotecna fixed scanner site

BY Benjamin Auta, Lagos

COMPTROLLER General of Customs, Abdullahi Dikko Inde has visited the Cotecna Fixed Scanner Site at the Lagos Port Complex, Apapa.

The fixed scanner building has been completed, the equipment test run and Cotecna hopes to commission the facility very soon.

The Customs boss and his team were visibly impressed with the development and commended Cotecna for faithfully executing their brief under the Destination Inspection Scheme.

The fixed Scanner constructed by Cotecna in Apapa Port is the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa and one of the best in the world.

A similar facility is under construction at Tin Can Port.

Customs to reduce time of inspection of containers to 12 hours

By Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THE Nigerian Customs Service is making effort to reduce the time for the clearing of goods at the nation's Seaport to 12 hours, says the Comptroller General.

He made the statement last week at a one day sensitization seminar for importers organized by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in Lagos.

The Customs boss who was represented by Comptroller of Customs Abubakar Umar added

that stakeholders in the industry will soon be sensitized on the importance of the operation as he solicited for maximum cooperation from the stakeholders.

"The Nigerian Customs Service through the present Comptroller General is thinking 12 hours clearance from our seaports, which we believe is possible but it will only succeed with the cooperation of all the stakeholders in the industry," he said.

Speaking earlier, in a welcome

address, the Director Imports and Supervision Scheme of the CBN, who was represented at the occasion by Mr. Nathaniel Igba, said that the seminar avails participant opportunity to deliberate on the challenges of import trade and the way forward.

He added that the seminar is part of Comprehensive Import Supervision Scheme (CISS) in ensuring that all stakeholders in the import chain are sensitized on the prevailing import regulations and improved practices.

Business/Finance

"Stocks market may experience volatility this year too"

Mr. Ike Chioke is the managing director of Afrinvest, a member of the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE). In this interview, Chioke examines the nation's capital market and concluded that the market may witness volatility, though with strong fundamental.

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

BANKS are scare of granting loans to their customers. What do you think is responsible and what available options are left for the investors?

Yes, on the banks current philosophy of extreme risk aversion especially granting loans to the real sector is probably due to environment where they operate. We can look at it in two ways. Firstly while it is appropriate for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to ensure that Nigerian banks demonstrate good transparency and disclosure as well as ensuring that there is sufficient confidence in the system, I think that the level of scrutiny in recent time in the nation's banking system might perhaps have cost the banks much degree of trust of their average customer to the extent that they don't want to go into hassles of creating any loan for them because they are afraid that something may happen and if they go wrong or the CBN will use the big stick.

We at Afrinvest are in support of what CBN is doing but we are getting the feeling and you can see from the action of the banks that the bankers themselves are afraid of customers. I went to a bank recently and I was told that customers cannot park inside that I should park outside. The bankers don't even trust their customers anymore talk less of granting them loans.

There is need for both parties to understand each other. That is one aspect of it. The second aspect is that when the bankers feel that they are likely to make provision for loans, then they will like to go to a risk-free asset areas and that explains why they are putting their money in government bonds. Quite a lot of the banks have kept their money in CBN and with excesses; they can approach the bond market which consequentially the net yield of fund in the bond market in Nigeria currently.

What options are available for the investors?

If you are a listed company in the real sector, we recommend strongly that you consider doing a bond. As I said earlier, because the banks have decided to place their



MR. Ike Chioke

money either at the CBN or FGN bond and with so much money buying FGN bond, state governments bond, the bond yield are failing gradually. I will give you example, last year, a 20-year FGN bond was yielding about 12 per cent which was very close to the coupon price of 13 and half per cent, today, a 20-year FGN bond is yielding around seven per cent. So many people are buying those bonds pushing the price up, you know the price moves in inverse direction to the yield, as the price goes up, the actual yield the investor will get effectively drop through the lack of that bond, if they hold it till maturity is now down to 7.4 per cent. Clearly, the banks are taken out their money, buying FGN bond, the balance is placed at CBN. Last time we checked, we understand that CBN had about N700 billion of money from the commercial banks and that was why the apex bank came out recently, precisely, on March 1 this year and reviewed the reserves repo rate. Reserves repo rate is the rate of the interest the banks earn when they leave their money in CBN.

The rate used to be 2 per cent but CBN cut it to one per cent. What it was telling the banks is that they must take their money from its reserve or else they will be paid only one per cent interest rate. Unfortunately that has not caused the banks to lend money, rather cause them to lend the banks have come to the money market sector and crashed the interest rate.

However, those who used to keep their money with interest yield of 14 per cent have now been

told by the banks that they can only get two or three per cent. This is because CBN is only given them one per cent. So you can see the whole capital market and money market all tied together. CBN has to start with the risk review either make the banks very anxious about lending money because if they are not lending money and people are depositing more money into their system, the banks are holding the money without lending it and because they have the cash reserve ratio, the ratio of cash they can hold, they then turned around and place some money with CBN, and placed the rest they cannot place with CBN they placed in the bond market. The bond market yield has come down, CBN says placing the money with me will only attract one per cent rate and consequently, the banks lower the money market placement. People that are placing money in the banks don't want to do that anymore.

One thing that has not happened amidst of all these is that the banks have not actually reduced the lending rate, because their usually interest rate of 10 per cent between the interest rate the banks are paying and the interest rate they want to collect from people who are borrowing. While all these are going on, borrowing interests are still where they are by the time you add your fees, processing charges, you are still in the 20 per cent rate. But placement rate are in single unit across many banks.

Now, what is happening to the stock market is that many people will say because I have lost money in 2008 and 2009 and I can go to

the bond market. The bond market yield as I said has just got down.

The yield used to be 13 per cent on 20-year bond is now 7 per cent. The money market as I explained the rate used to be about 12, 14 per cent now about 24 per cent. What the customer does is to take this money to the equity market that is to me the only solution. So much money is leaving the bond market, money market and is moving into equity market hence you can see that in the movement of price of stocks in recent days and of course since there is more demand than supply the prices have begun to trickle up and you can see that since March, March was a rocket month up from February.

Recently you launched the Nigeria International Bond Fund (NIBF). What is the importance of this to the nation's economy?

The rationale for the re-launching NIBF which has been in the market since 1997 was to familiarize Nigeria investing public about the opportunity of the bond market.

All the while we have been making noise about equity market while the bond market is dwarfing the equity market by several months ago. March was a buoyant month for the equity market and I think the traded volume of equity should be in the neighbourhood of N60 to N80 billion for the whole month. Over the same month, the bond market has done N2 trillion turnover. Significantly, more money moves in and out of the bond market because of the large players involves, Nigerian banks are of course big players but one strong players which most average investors do not remember is the pension fund administrators.

Because of what we did with pension reforms in 2006, a lot of PFA today have their strong presence in the bond market and these constitutes between 32 and 33 per cent of the bond market in term of secondary market trading, very active.

However, the average investors are excluded from the bond market because the minimum transaction is in the neighbourhood of N100 million per transaction. For the man on the street, is a no go area. With the NIBF, Afrinvest as a bond manager is able to invest exclusively on all FGN bond and state governments bond.

We have several billion under this management. We buy and sell those bonds in both domestic and international. While we are trading like other institutional investors in hundreds and billions of naira, we are also allow our retail customers to come in and invest in fund at a minimum price of N750,000.

This, we believe is an excellent way people can comes in and participate in the bond market and for those who does not have N750,000,

we have created an in-house payment structure that can help them save up to that point and come to NIBF. So, that is part of the reasons we are re-launching NIBF in addition to make people understands that it is now more liquid. There was also an investment trust where it was listed on the exchange like a company so if you want to buy in shares there must be somebody who must be ready to sell before you can exchange it. If you own it and you want to sell and there is no buyer, then you cannot sell.

Today, we have converted that listing on the primary market to the NIBF and to memorandum listing. So Afrinvest is a market and if you want to sell, come to us we will give you your money in five days. If you want to buy, come to us we will give you new unit within five days.

That way, it is much more vibrant. We have the money to turn around that is the standard Trust we have. Within those things creating more liquidity and adding value, you can see NIBF is now trading at a much better value.

A trading today is at N1,700 per unit. We are offering the unit under the current offer which opens till the end of April at N1,500, about 12 per cent discount to the current price. But before we move this from the main listing to memorandum listing it was selling around N1,600 and many of the investors could not get the real value because they were trying to sell, there was no buyer and this actually depressed the market.

Now that the stock market is recovering, is it sustainable?

There is nothing like sustainable so long as the earnings are rising, the stock market should keep picking up. But the stock market is impacted with a lot of issues. The market is impacted by the liquidity in the market. You can have healthy market but there are no buyers and if there are no buyers the market will be sluggish.

If you have a healthy market and you have unstable political environment, like we have in the first three months of the year, I remember we were trying to push some equities to some foreign investors and I was told that we should go and solve our presidential problem and when we finished we should call them. So there is nothing wrong with the market.

In a few months, we are going to witness new elections that will also impacts on the stock market. On whether this gaining is sustainable, well based on the fundamental earning goals of the companies in the market, there is good potential for moving up side and I see it rising up to 30,000 index before the end of the year but I will expect to see a lot of volatility in the course of the year.

“I see it rising up to 30,000 index before the end of the year but I will expect to see a lot of volatility in the course of the year.**”**



UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA UNIVERSITY

P. M. B. 2218, Dutsin-Ma Road, Katsina

2008 ETF NORMAL INTERVENTION AND LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS AND INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE AUTOMATION OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, PROCUREMENT OF LIBRARY BOOKS, EQUIPMENT, FURNITURE AND LOCAL PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2008/2009

Umaru Musa Yar'adua University intends to carryout:

2008 Normal Intervention Projects:

- i. Lot I: Procurement of Library Automation
- ii. Lot II: Procurement of Library Equipment

Under the 2008 Education Trust Fund (ETF) Normal Intervention and Library Development Projects.

Pre-qualification and Tender Documents are hereby invited from capable and competent Contractors for assessment and bidding.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

You are required to submit the following documents before purchasing tender document at Bid Fees of N10,000.00 for Lot I (Procurement of Library Automation) and N35,000.00 for Lot II (Procurement of Library Equipment):

- a- Evidence of Company Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission. (CAC)
- b- Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years.
- c- Value Added Tax Registration Certificate (VAT).
- d- Company's Audited Accounts for 3 years.
- e- Bank reference from a reputable bank as evidence of financial capability.
- f- List and documentary evidence of similar services to other high caliber facilities successfully and satisfactorily provided (or being provided) in Nigeria within the last 3 years. Such evidence shall be in the form of valid contract/service agreement and payment certificates. Contractors for Library Automation must show evidence of clear experience in Open Access Initiative/Development and electronic repositories design and deployment.
- g- Evidence of registration as a contractor/service provider with Katsina State Government/Umaru Musa Yar'adua University Katsina.
- h- And any other information that will enhance the pre-qualification of the company.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDED TENDER DOCUMENTS:

Pre-qualification and bided tender documents should be separately each and to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked clearly at right hand corner with the title of the project for which the Pre-qualification/Bid Tender is sought to:

**The Registrar,
Umaru Musa Yar'adua University,
P.M.B 2218, Dutsin-ma Road,
Katsina.**

All pre-qualification and Bided tender documents should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon at two weeks from the date of this publication and submissions will be publicly opened at 12:01 pm of the date of the closing. All contractors that make submission or their representatives are advised to be present at the University Senate Chamber, Senate Building to witness to the opening of the pre-qualification documents.

**Signed
Abdu Halliru Abdullahi
Registrar/Secretary to the Council.**



**TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)
PUBLIC NOTICE**

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR YEAR 2010 PROCUREMENT OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT

ADDENDUM

Please refer to our recently published advertisements in the **Federal Tenders Journal** (pages 32, 33 and 35); **ThisDay** (pages 70 and 71) and **Daily Trust**(pages 38 and 39), all of Monday, 8th February, 2010, on the items listed below;

1. THE DESIGN, SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF POWER SYSTEM SCADA, TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY AND WORKING TOOLS.
2. SUPPLY OF TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT.
3. PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING FOR ENERGY METERING SYSTEMS, in the Federal Tenders Journal, Daily Trust and The Nation of Monday, March 8, 2010.

NOTE

Please note that;

- A. Only Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), shall be pre-qualified as against accredited agents. This is in line with the Federal Government directives on procurement of major equipment.
- B. All Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), who submitted their applications through their agents, should re-apply directly.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All completed documents by the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), should be submitted to;

**Assistant General Manager (Procurement),
Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN),
Room 228, 2nd Floor, PHCN CHQ,
Plot 441, Zambezi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.
e-mail: atonack@yahoo.co.uk**

EXTENSION OF TIME

Submission of completed documents by applicants is therefore extended to Friday, 16th April, 2010.

**Signed:
MANAGEMENT
TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)**



Federal Republic of Nigeria

Federal Ministry of Power

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY OF FIELD TEST VANS/TEST EQUIPMENT AND LOW POUR FUEL OIL (LPFO)

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has provided funds in the 2010 Budget Proposals for the Federal Ministry of Power to improve the quality and reliability of electric power generation and installations in the country. Consequently, the Federal Ministry of Power invites tender for the supply of the items specified and described in the lots listed below:

Lot 1. The supply of 6No Testing Vans, 4WD, Air-Conditioned (Double Cabin); Petrol Engine, Van Canopy (Inside compartment fitted with heat insulation material) with each Test Van fitted with the following Field Test Equipment from the original equipment manufacturers:

- i. 1No. Three Phase Transformer Turns Ratio Test Set
- ii. 1No. Primary Current Injection Test Set with associated cables
- iii. 1No. Secondary Current Injection Test Set with associated cables
- iv. 1No. AC/DC High Pot Tester
- v. 1No. 80kV Dielectric Oil Test Set
- vi. 1No. 10kV Insulation Tester
- vii. 1No. Digital Earth Resistance Test Set
- viii. 1No. Dual Display Digital Multi-Meter
- ix. 1No. 70kV Discharge Rod
- x. 1No. 5kVA Generator

Lot 2: The supply of 90, 000mts (ninety thousand metric tons) of LPFO.

PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER REQUIREMENTS

2. Eligible suppliers are to support their bids with the following documents/information:

- i. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Forms CO7;
- ii. Company Audited Account for 3 years;
- iii. Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years
- iv. VAT Registration;
- v. Evidence of registration with Pension Commission (PC) and remittances to Pension Fund Administrators (PFA);
- vi. Evidence of Financial Capability & Banking Support;
- vii. Evidence of payment of Tender Fee N25,00.00 (Twenty – five thousand Naira);
- viii. List of 3 similar projects previously executed or on-

- going, including letters of award, completion and payment certificates;
- ix. Technical details, brochures/manuals and Manufacturers' Authorisation Letter for the proposed Test Equipment (Lot 1);
- x. Copy of ISO certificate of the manufacturer (Lot 1);
- xi. Evidence of existing Local and, or International Supply Agreements or MOU with the sources of the LPFO supply and facilities for delivery (Lot 2);
- xii. Confirmation of Tender Validity Period of at least 90 days;

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER DOCUMENTS

3. Four copies each, including one original, of the documents for Pre-qualification and Tenders in 2 separate sealed envelopes marked 'Pre-qualification' or 'Tender' for the supply of items in any of the Lots' and inserted in a bigger 3rd envelope, must be submitted not later than 12 noon on Monday 17th May 2010. The submissions should be addressed to and delivered at the address below:

The Secretary,
Ministerial Tenders Board,
Federal Secretariat Complex,
Phase 1, Annex III, 3rd Floor, Room 347,
CBD, Abuja.

OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER DOCUMENTS

4. All Pre-qualification documents will be opened immediately after the close of tender submission on Monday 17th May 2010, at 2.00pm, in the 4th Floor Conference Room, Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Annex III.

5. Only pre-qualified suppliers or their representatives, interested members of the public and Non-Governmental Organizations will be invited to witness the public opening of the financial bids.

6. All quotations sent by post will be rejected.

Signed
I.B.Sali
Permanent Secretary

DIGEST

Do you hear a voice in your head when you read? If not... you could be dyslexic

AS Gary Chevin watched his wife Carol reading a newspaper, he had a sudden realisation.

Diagnosed as severely dyslexic at seven, he had always struggled to read. Gary noticed that Carol was reading without moving her lips, which seemed odd to him as a dyslexic. 'She told me she was reading in her head,' says Gary. 'I asked what that sounded like and she said it was like a voice.'

'I have never heard a voice in my head - ever. I was so shocked I nearly fell off my chair.'

Gary, 50, was stunned to learn that when 55-year-old Carol read a letter, she would hear the writer's voice, rather than her own, in her head - and that in her dreams, people spoke. 'It all seemed so alien to me. I have the reading age of a five-year-old so I never read. If I dream, I have visual dreams. They are always totally silent.'

Most people use their inner voice subconsciously. But for those who find they do not have one, it can be a revelation.

'I now understand my actions a lot more,' says Gary, a former builder from Stoke-on-Trent. 'I follow my emotions because I don't have a voice in my head analysing what I'm about to say or do.'

Professor Rod Nicolson, head of work psychology at the University of Sheffield, has been studying dyslexia for many years and was inspired to investigate internal speech after meeting Gary at a conference in 2004. He believes he has found a link between lack of inner speech and poor reading ability. 'Children start off having to say every word out loud,

he says. 'At some stage, as their reading improves, so does their ability to sight-read [to read in their heads] and that is the stage at which reading really takes off.'

By the age of eight or nine, most children can read in their heads. The development of the inner voice seems to be automatic for most people, but our data suggests a link with fluent reading, in that the process of learning to sight-read actually helps inner-speech develop.

'Everyone assumes everyone else is the same. However, we have found not everyone has an inner voice and in those who don't, literacy levels are often poor. 'But we have also found a lot of children with dyslexia who have well-developed inner speech.' Prof Nicolson believes that like ordinary speech, there are different degrees of fluency of inner speech. 'It's probably "use it or lose it"', he says. Dr Kate Saunders, of the British Dyslexia Association, says the idea that some dyslexics have no inner voice is new. 'It is possible there may be a link with dyslexia for some individuals, but we shouldn't make any sweeping statements,' she adds. No one knows for sure what causes dyslexia but 'at risk' signs can be detected in children as young as three. There is evidence from brain-scan research that when dyslexic individuals read, key areas on the left side of the brain important for the processing of language are not as activated as they should be.

Consequently, those with dyslexia struggle with reading, spell-



GARY Chevin is learning to develop his own inner voice when he reads

ing and writing and can have difficulty making the link between the written word and the phonetic sounds in words. Early diagnosis and well-structured, multi-sensory phonics-based teaching programmes can help.

Dr Saunders says 30 to 50 per cent of those with dyslexia also have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, a medical condi-

tion affecting how well someone can sit still and focus. It is believed that many of those with ADHD may also lack an inner voice.

Prof Nicolson is seeking volunteers who suspect they have little or no inner speech to undergo Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), a non-invasive brain scan using a powerful magnetic field, radio-frequency pulses

and a computer to measure tiny metabolic changes in the brain.

It should detect when someone is using internal speech.

'So far our research has been based on simple tests we've devised ourselves,' he says. 'Using an fMRI scanner will provide a strong test for our theory.'

For Gary, there is still hope. He has software that turns his speech into type on his computer, and vice versa. Listening to emails via his earpiece has helped him develop an inner voice, although he has to concentrate to hear it.

'I feel so sad when I think of what I went through at school,' says Gary, whose two grown-up children also have dyslexia and no internal speech. 'I hated every single day. Many schoolchildren are still struggling and more research is needed to help them.'

TESYOUR INNER SPEECH

For this you need two people - one asking the questions and the other doing the test. If you find any of this difficult, it may indicate problems with reading.

Ask the person to say numbers one to 26 out loud, then to say them again, but saying one out loud and two and three in their heads, with their tongue clamped between their teeth. They must not move any part of their body, such as nodding their head or using their fingers. The correct sequence would be 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25. They must complete it within 25 seconds. Using a pen, tap on the table, say, ten times and ask the other person to count the taps in their head, applying the same rules as above.

Cleverest women are the heaviest drinkers



CLEVERER women tend to drink more

WOMEN who went to university consume more alcohol than their less-highly-educated counterparts, a major study has found.

Those with degrees are almost twice as likely to drink daily, and they are also more likely to admit to having a drinking problem.

A similar link between educational attainment

and alcohol consumption is seen among men, but the correlation is less strong.

The findings come from a comprehensive study carried out at the London School of Economics in which researchers tracked the lives of thousands of 39-year-old women and men, all born in the UK during the same week in

1970. The report concludes: "The more educated women are, the more likely they are to drink alcohol on most days and to report having problems due to their drinking patterns. "The better-educated appear to be the ones who engage the most in problematic patterns of alcohol consumption."

Women's alcohol consumption can even be predicted from their scores in school tests taken when they are as young as five.

Women who achieved "medium" or "high" test marks as schoolgirls are up to 2.1 times more likely to drink daily as adults. The authors of the report, Francesca Borgonovi and Maria Huerta, suggest several possible explanations as to why better-educated women drink more.

They tend to have children later, postponing the responsibilities of parenthood. They may have more active social lives or work in male-dominated workplaces with a drinking culture.

As girls, they may have grown up in middle-class families and seen their par-

ents drink regularly.

In the long-term study, the LSE team followed all the people born in Britain during one week in 1970, asking them questions about their lifestyle at regular periods throughout their lives.

The number of people for whom information was available has varied over the course of the research between 9,665 and 17,287. The researchers took account of each individual's school test results and level of academic attainment, as well as their answers to regularly-administered surveys in which they were asked questions such as "Have you ever felt you should cut down on your drinking?" and "Have you ever had a drink first thing in the morning to steady your nerves or get rid of a hangover?"

Women with some educational qualifications were 71 per cent more likely to drink on most days compared to women with no qualifications. Women with degree-level qualifications were 86 per cent more likely to do so.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Will the kidnapers allow you to make a call?
Photo location: Shanghai, China, by Tai Wai Cheung
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

24

ACROSS

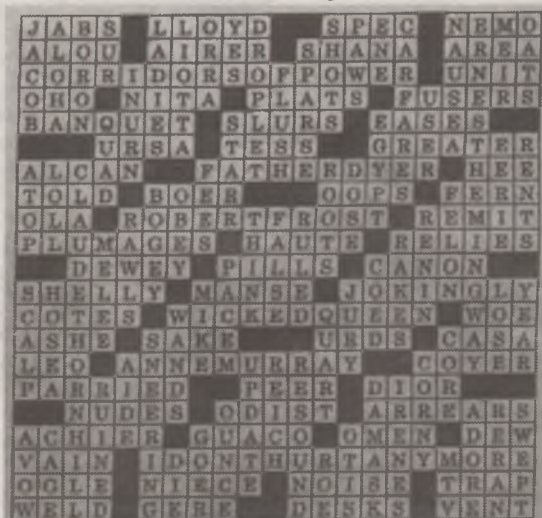
1. Metal refuse
5. Post-house directors
8. Incompatible about slang
14. Placates
18. Postmark baroque
20. Prefers
21. An Abba!
22. Karried
23. Before a dead sea: 2 wds.
25. Ten
26. One of a musical trio
27. Fling out
28. Actress Swanson
29. Before noon: 3 wds.
31. Wet spot
32. Notable founding father
34. Enslavement
35. Drink greatly
38. Fair piece?
41. Cattle shed
43. Pith
44. Earthy argument
46. 720-hour period
51. Cass's eggs
52. Assent novel
53. Liturgy
54. Crustacean
55. Vehicle for a new Brit
56. Paramount order
57. Red letters?
58. Cigarette
59. Wash-kilometer post?
60. Together with
61. Aerial component
62. Best
63. Noisy avians
64. River boat
65. Wander
68. Admonish
69. County in Ireland
71. Addo destination in Fleming
72. Minute quantity
74. Lag
77. Things with strings
107. Restrict
110. Project to the history?
111. Artemis's hunting companion
112. He arrives before temperature: 2 wds.
114. Siberian duck
115. Understanding
116. Trip function
117. Wartime product: slang
118. Trim
119. West fortwo
120. Impulse
121. Main actor!
70. Broadway's Armas
71. Culture medium
73. Pines
75. Yon Kipper verb
76. In down
79. Ased
80. Blasted
82. Hawk's cry
83. Straberg of "Stage Struck"
84. North African nation
87. Benise estate
88. Wavering
89. Compasses' jaws
92. Lacking effect
94. Made little balls
96. Irregularly added
97. Ventured
99. Trend plus rarer
101. Sub-legend but insert
102. Islamic VIP
103. Rich supply
104. Bell cushion
106. Ligurian Sea feeder
107. Philosopher's subject
108. Kumbhaver of rakshas
109. Ancient kingdom
111. Kevia gift?
113. Plaster

DOWN

1. Drive battery
2. Mr Turner
3. Aho weaver
4. Sixth Avenue
5. Pe's promise
6. Chinese warehouse
7. There, in a way
8. Andy Hardy reference
9. Wrench in Leeds
10. Society divider
11. Imparture
12. Fighter too
13. Old Hollywood mogul
14. Egregious
15. Tolerant patients
16. Anderson of TV
17. Wee object
19. Castigate
24. See 77-across
29. Expressed
30. Mad
31. Din with tears
32. Demos character
33. Biblical queen's husband
36. Former colliers
37. Before you know it
38. Soliman
40. English residents
42. Years before sunrise: 2 wds.
43. Efficacy
44. Baptism
47. Process before a bench
49. Before in position

Solution to Easy Crosswords

23



SUDOKU

The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 square grid made up of smaller 3x3 square grids (regions). The numbers already present within the puzzle are "given" - these are there to start you off. The aim is to complete the puzzle by filling the empty cells. Every digit from 1-9 needs to fit in each row, column and region of 9 squares. Each row, column and region must contain just one instance of each number, 1-9.

120

	4			1	9			5
	9		8					1
6		8	5					4
	8	1						
			3		7		4	
							9	7
	3				1	7		2
	6					3		5
8				4	9			6

Solution to Sudoku 119

6	3	4	1	5	2	8	7	9
1	7	8	6	4	9	3	5	2
2	9	5	3	8	7	6	4	1
7	2	9	4	3	1	5	6	8
3	5	1	9	6	8	4	2	7
4	8	6	2	7	5	9	1	3
9	6	7	8	2	4	1	3	5
5	1	3	7	9	6	2	8	4
8	4	2	5	1	3	7	9	6

News Extra

Man with half a body defies the odds by 'fathering a child'

Despite only having half a body, Kenny Easterday insists he can live the life of a normal man. Now he appears to have proved it after claiming he has fathered a child.

Easterday, 35, was born with a rare condition called sacral agenesis, which prevented his spine from developing normally.

When he was just six months old, doctors amputated Kenny's legs and used part of his shinbone to complete his partially-formed spine.

Kenny is so small he can fit inside a suitcase but that hasn't stopped him playing pool, bowling, working - or having a love life with fiancée Nicky, 33.

In an American television documentary, he and Nicky revealed that they were together seven years ago - after which she became pregnant with her daughter, Desiree.

The pair are soon to find out if Desiree is actually Kenny's child. And they hope to start a new family to join Nicky's two children.

Kenny's greatest dream is to have a child, he revealed in the documentary.

'I want a child to carry my name, someone that can carry my legacy and be able to say "Well that's my daddy," he said.

Kenny was not expected to live past 21.

As a boy Kenny was offered prosthetic legs but he hated wearing them and preferred to



KENNY Easterday is living a normal life beyond expectations in Virginia



KENNY'S legs were amputated when he was six months old and a part of his shinbone was used to complete his spine

use his hands or a skateboard to get around.

'My dad pretty much taught me how to walk on my hands,' said Kenny, from West Virginia, USA.

CI just told him to walk behind his mother, because she walks like a duck so just walk like her,' Kenny's father said in documentary made about his life.

As a child Kenny starred in the 1988 film, *The Kid Brother*, a dramatised version of his early life.

'If I'm handicapped it's because of these damn legs,' Kenny said in the film as he pushes over his prosthetic legs.



KENNEY Easterday with Desiree, the seven-year-old who could be his daughter

News Extra



FROM left: Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger, Naoko Yamazaki and Stephanie Wilson prepare for their voyage to the International Space Station



AMERICAN astronaut Tracy Caldwell Dyson, who is currently orbiting earth in a Russian capsule, is one of four women who will be in space this week

One giant leap for womankind

...Four female astronauts to set a record for most women in space at one time

Space is about to have a female population explosion, with four women set to be in orbit at the same time. This week NASA will attempt to launch three women to the International Space Station, where they will join another female who is already circling earth in a Russian capsule.

It will be the most women in space at the one time.

The astronauts are a former schoolteacher, a chemist who once worked as an electrician and two aerospace engineers.

Americans Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger and Stephanie Wilson and Japanese astronaut Naoko Yamazaki will launch with Discovery's seven-strong crew today.

Ms Wilson, 43, said she hoped the number of women in space would increase.

'I think that we have made a great start and have paved the way with women now being able to perform the same duties as men in spaceflight,' she said.

Wilson became the second black woman in space in 2006.

The crew will spend 13 days in space, hauling up big spare parts, experiments and other supplies to the nearly completed space station.

Yamazaki will become the second Japanese woman to fly in space.

The women will join American Tracy Caldwell Dyson, who was launched aboard a Soyuz rocket from Kazakhstan on Friday with two Russian male astronauts.

Dyson was due to arrive yesterday and stay at the space station for six months.

The 40-year-old has a doctorate in chemistry and grew up in Southern California assisting her electri-

cian father.

She was inspired by former schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe, who was killed along with six others aboard Challenger in 1986.

McAuliffe, a high school teacher, also inspired Metcalf-Lindenburger, who was 14 years old when she attended Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, several years after the Challenger launch accident.

'Of course, the shuttle has its risks. But we've tried to make it as safe as possible, and there are so many things that we gain from it and there are so many reasons to fly it,' Metcalf-Lindenburger said.

Metcalf-Lindenburger was a young earth-science and astronomy teacher when she stumbled onto a wanted ad for astronaut-educator in 2003.

The achievement comes 27 years after America's first female astronaut, Sally Ride, rocketed into space.

Men still outnumber women by more than two to one aboard the shuttle and station.

The head of NASA's space operations was unaware of the imminent record until it was pointed out to him last week.

Three women have flown together in space before, but only a few times.

'Maybe that's a credit to the system, right? That I don't think of it as male or female,' space operations chief Bill Gerstenmaier said.

'I just think of it as a talented group of people going to do their job in space.'

Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the world's first space traveller in 1961, and he was followed two years later by world's first spacewoman, fellow Soviet Valentina Tereshkova.

“The head of NASA's space operations was unaware of the imminent record until it was pointed out to him last week. Three women have flown together in space before, but only a few times”



THE Soyuz TMA-18 rocket, containing Tracy Caldwell Dyson, takes off from Kazakhstan Friday.

News Extra

Easter celebrations around the world

PIC: EPA



EAST Timorese women carry crosses as they pray at Komoro Church in Dilli



FLAGELLANTS flog themselves and each other outside Quiapo church before marching to Malacanang palace in Manila. Roman Catholic bishops in the Philippines criticised the Easter ritual of people publicly whipping themselves or having themselves crucified.

PIC: AP



A man plays the part of Jesus Christ and walks over a person playing the devil to symbolise the triumph of good over evil as part of Holy Week celebrations in Texistepeque, El Salvador

PIC: EPA



PAINTED hens' eggs are checked at wholesale company Eicom in Barneveld in central Netherlands for Easter festivities.



VISITORS stand next to a tree decorated with thousands of Easter eggs in the garden of Christa and Volker Kraft in Saalfeld, Germany

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com



UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN, ILORIN, NIGERIA

P.M.B. 1515, ILORIN

Website: www.unilorin.edu.ng Info: ppu@unilorin.edu.ng
Tel.: 08035960109 Fax: +234-(0)31-222561

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR UNIVERSITY PROJECTS

A. INTRODUCTION

The University of Ilorin wishes to execute the following projects:

- i. Hostel for College of Health Sciences
- ii. Building for Centre for Peace and Strategic Studies
- iii. Completion of Stadium Complex
 - a. The Grand Stand
 - b. Registration Centre
 - c. Tartan Tracks
 - d. Standard (Olympic) Swimming Pool
- iv. Refurbishment of the Indoor Sports Hall & Parquet Flooring
- v. Teaching and Research Equipment
- vi. Laboratory Equipment for Departments (ETF)
- vii. A Block of Four Lecture Rooms for College of Health Sciences (ETF)
- viii. Green House for the Faculty of Agriculture (ETF)
- ix. Furniture Items for Computer Based Test (CBT) Centres
- x. Supply of Luxurious (Marcopolo Type) Bus
- xi. Supply of Cars and Hilux Van for the Faculties
- xii. Supply of 500KVA 11/411 KV Transformer (Sport-Complex)
- xiii. Rehabilitation (Internal Wall Tiling) of the Senate Building
- xiv. Upgrading of PG Hostel
- xv. Furnishing of PG Hostel
- xvi. Procurement of Assorted Books (ETF)
- xvii. Internal Road Construction
- xviii. Rehabilitation of Buildings
- xix. West Africa University Games (WAUG) Hostel/ Retreat Centre

B. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested contractors are required to submit pre-qualification documents with verifiable evidence including, but not limited to the following:

- i. Evidence of incorporation of Company by Corporate Affairs Commission;
- ii. Evidence of current registration with the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development (where necessary);
- iii. Evidence of tax clearance certificate for the last three years;
- iv. Company's Audited Account for the last three years;
- v. Evidence of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act 2004;
- vi. List of similar jobs executed with evidence of names of clients, location of projects, letter of contract award, certificate of practical completion and cost of projects [Note that any contractor without evidence of having successfully executed a single project of the magnitude (in cost) of what he is seeking to be pre-qualified for, shall not be shortlisted, particularly for items A(i), (ii) and (iii)];
- vii. Letter of reference from contractors' bankers; and
- viii. Letter of consent from professionals to be engaged on the projects.

C. PROCESSING FEES

Interested contractors are required to pay a non-refundable processing fee of N30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) only, for each project bid for (Bank Draft), to the University of Ilorin, Ilorin. The draft or evidence of payment at the Bursary Department of the University must accompany the pre-qualification submission.

D. SUBMISSION

All submissions in sealed envelopes should be delivered to the address below not later than 12 noon, two (2) weeks from the date of this advertisement. The envelopes should be clearly marked at the top-right-hand corner with the name of the project and "UNIVERSITY CAPITAL PROJECT". Pre-qualification submissions will be opened at the Committee Room of Auditorium Basement, University of Ilorin at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, the 20th of April 2010.

The Registrar,

P.M.B. 1515, Ilorin.

Note:

- (i) This advertisement is not an invitation to tender;
- (ii) The University reserves the right to reject any or all the pre-qualification packages;
- (iii) Failure to comply with any of the above instructions or provide any of the listed documents may automatically result in disqualification.

Signed
Olufolake O. Oyeyemi (Mrs)
Registrar

Policemen kill Okada rider at Karu

By Abubakar Yakubu & Nathaniel Jonah

THE police in Karu, an Abuja suburb Thursday allegedly killed a commercial motorcyclist as he ferried passengers on the Jikoyi to Karu road.

Witnesses said at about 8 pm on the fateful day, Usman Ibrahim was carrying a passenger on his bike when four policemen manning a checkpoint signalled with a touchlight that he stop, but that he continued on his way.

One of the policemen reportedly hit him on the back of the head and that he died shortly on hitting the ground.

Usman was buried according to Islamic rites the following day and his colleagues grouped up hours after his burial on Friday and set fire to a police outpost close to the spot Usman was killed.

After the attack, policemen in large numbers swamped on the area minutes later and arrested commercial cyclists as well as their bikes that passed through the troubled area.

Over 20 motorcycles were impounded and 10 commercial cyclists arrested as suspects by the police at Karu.

The deceased's uncle, Malam Hassan Ibrahim, said Usman came to Abuja from Jibia in Katsina State to work hard in order to help his parents and to fulfil his dream of marrying his fiancée before the year ran out.

"His parents are deaf and dumb, which made Usman the breadwinner of his family and he worked very hard as an Okada rider to ensure that he makes them comfortable and to marry before the year runs out," his uncle said.

Malam Ibrahim stated that he was outside his apartment Thursday night (at around 12 midnight) when some commercial cyclists came to him and inquired whether Usman

had come home as they saw his motorcycle parked at CBN junction in Karu.

He said immediately after the information, he left with a group of Islamic clerics to CBN junction and did not see the bike, adding that the following morning they went to the police station at Karu and were told that Usman was at Asokoro General Hospital.

"When we got to the



THE late Usman Ibrahim (right) and his fiancée.



THE burnt police outpost at CBN junction in Karu

hospital, a check was done of all the patients that were admitted for the day but Usman's name could only be found on the list of corpses at the hospital, which made us return to the police to ask for a medical report but they preferred to release a policeman to follow us to the hospital to get the corpse," the uncle said.

According to him, the police removed N2,320 from the deceased pocket to deposit for the corpse at the hospital, while the family paid N2,660 and an additional N500, before the body was released from the hospital.

He said prayers were conducted after Jumat prayers and the corpse taken to Nyanya Cemetery for burial.

Malam Ibrahim disclosed that the attack on Usman by the police was the third, adding that the first was when they whipped him with sticks and he fell with a female passenger, who was carrying tomatoes, while the third was when he got the same beating when he carried a male passenger.

Our reporter learnt from people around CBN junction that policemen, who mount road blocks at CBN junction, are found of molesting commercial cyclists as from 8 pm.

"They use heavy sticks to hit cyclists, who refuse to stop and we normally see ugly incidents, where cyclists and their passengers get injured because of such harassment," a witness

around the area said.

Cyclists spoken to alleged that the policemen are found of extorting money from them, hence their refusal to stop.

"Once we stop at CBN junction, the policemen will collect all our earnings for the day, which is normally N2,500 and later take your bike to their station where we are made to pay additional N3,000 before the bike is released, hence our refusal to stop," an Okada rider revealed.

He said because of the extortion, commercial cyclists prefer to by-pass the policemen that mount roadblock at the junction.

Residents of Karu said the services of okada riders have been helpful as they take them home after work.

"After the holdup at AYA, we normally mount such bikes at 8 pm and they drop us at the door steps of our houses," a resident said.

Reacting FCT Police Spokesman, Superintendent Moshood Jimoh, said the police sighted the victim disobeying the FCTA's ban and waved him to stop but he sped on and hit a pole.

After the accident, the policemen at the scene took him to Asokoro General Hospital and surprisingly the victim's colleagues came in large numbers to burn a police outpost and 10 of them were arrested," the spokesman said.

He said the suspects will be investigated and later charged to court.

Cleric cautions Muslims on marriages

By Hussein Yahaya & Muideen Olaniyi

AN Islamic Cleric, Mallam Yunus Raheem, has advised Muslim men not to misconstrue the provision in the Holy Qur'an that states that a Muslim man can marry up to four wives.

The cleric who spoke after the Friday Jumaat sermon, reminded Muslims that such clause in the Holy book was accompanied with important conditions that such a man must be financially, spiritually, physically and morally capable to cater for the wives.

Mallam Raheem observed that it will not auger well for anybody to give birth to a large number of children that he cannot monitor and train effectively.

He appealed to government at all levels to find a lasting solution to the many problems confronting the country, especially those related to unemployment and social security.

In another development, scholars at the Organization of Thadamunul Muslimeen (OTM) four-day seminar in Abuja, yesterday tasked Muslim parents to give priority attention to both religious and Western systems of education with a view to enabling their children cope with challenges in the contemporary world.

Delivering a lecture on 'Establishing A Muslim Home' an educationist Uztadh Dhikrullah Ibrahim stressed the need for Muslims to support Islamic schools in order to set quality standard for their children.

Uztadh Ibrahim said some children get polluted through their exposure to negative norms in Western system of education but expressed his belief that there is no alternative to a sound education which is merged with moral teachings.

Earlier in his lecture entitled 'Muslims and the Challenges of knowledge in the 21st Century', Uztadh Nuruddeen Adesina identified blind imitation, dearth of competent scholars, poor attitude to Islamic knowledge, laziness, inadequate information, lack of organization and lack of focus as among the challenges facing the Muslims.

Other lectures were presented by Imam Tajudeen Bello of Fuad Lababidi Mosque, who spoke on 'The Significance of the Knowledge of Qur'an and Sunnah', Uztadh Aliy Shuaib Abdus-Salam from Taraba State and Imam Ismail Solahuddeen of Nurul-Bayan International Academy, who spoke on the 'The Evolution of Fiqh.'

The four-day seminar ends today with a special conference for women themed "Women: Agents of Societal Transformation" at Berger Central Mosque, Utako District, along Mabushi Junction.

Council poll: residents call for adequate security

By Hussein Yahaya

RESIDENTS of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have appealed to relevant authorities to ensure adequate security at polling units during the April 10 council elections.

Many residents spoken to called for massive monitoring of the polls by the electorates, journalists and civil societies to ensure the success of the poll.

Mr. John Aoudu, a civil servant, appealed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to closely monitor the activities of their staff, especially the presiding and returning officers to avoid sharp practices.

"Previous experiences have shown that allegations of riggings by INEC are mostly done by presiding and returning officers and they must be closely monitored by all the stakeholders

if the elections will be free and fair," he said.

Malam Abdul Isah, a resident of Bwari, said many people have lost interest with elections in Nigeria because of previous experiences where peoples' votes do not really count in the long run.

"Honestly, we decided to participate in Saturday's election because the FCT INEC commissioner, Mr. Stephen Manye assured us that the poll will not

only be free and fair but will be generally acceptable," he stated.

Elections will be conducted in all the six area councils in the FCT on Saturday to elect the new council chairmen and councillors.

Our reporter learnt that 23 political parties are taking part in the exercise, while about 1842 INEC personnel will be deployed to all the 614 polling units in the territory with about 10,000 police men to provide security.



FUN seekers at Millinneum Park Abuja yesterday.

Multitude throng Millennium Park for Easter

By Hussein Yahaya

MULTITUDES yesterday swarmed at Millennium Park to celebrate the Easter holiday in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Car parks within the park were filled up and fun seekers had to park their vehicles by the road sides in order to move into the park, while armed mobile policemen were seen parading around the park.

Those at the park, where seen in groups eating and drinking as local musicians entertained picnickers.

Families were seen dishing out rice and chicken meals, while others took snacks and soft drinks.

Our reporter observed a large crowd at the children's playfield, which caused a large queue as children had to wait for a long time before they could get hold of a swing.

Mrs Caroline Joseph said she brought her daughter to the park after church service in order to show love.

Mr Ameh Cornelius, a resident praised the security at the park and urged the park's management to continue to ensure security for the place to be well patronised.

David, a resident, lamented that the economic situation of the country does not give room for elaborate celebrations, adding

that he took his family to the park for fun.

However, a Clergy man, Pastor Mathew Ajayi, said Easter should be used as a period for sober reflection and to pray for the less privileged as well as to give alms.

He appealed to all Christians to continue to live peacefully with their neighbours, adding that without love sharing, alms giving and forgiveness, the essence of Easter celebrations will be defeated.



CROSS section of graduates from the New York Film Academy during their convocation ceremony in Abuja Saturday.



I.Q. Academy pupils during a competition in Abuja recently.



MISS Farida Abubakar receiving a certificate at AfriHub Institute at Wuse 2, Abuja recently.



MUSLIMS praying for the country in Abuja recently



FCT Permanent Secretary Dr. Goke Adeboye (left) commissioning a health centre built by World Bank at Abaji recently.

IT WORLD

Hotline:08027649677

Nigeria's telecom infrastructure not enough for growth -Expert

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE telecommunication infrastructures in Nigeria are not strong enough to support the growth of the sector and compete favourably with other nations, a United State's telecommunication expert Dr. Usman Goni has said.

Speaking recently to Daily Trust, Goni said any nation that

wishes to be a player in the global economic development either by buying or selling or creating means for development of master plan must have global information infrastructure.

Dr Goni who is among the committee set up by the Nigerian government to review the telecom policy in the country said the policy in much broader way should be

able to tap into that global infrastructure.

He said the fundamental for growth of the telecom industry is a sound policy and efficient infrastructure that will make the network available for all.

"The idea is to have connectivity into that infrastructure so as to have better transactions," he said.

He said although the current

policy was a brilliant one as at the time it was written some 10 years ago, but needs improvement to meet present realities.

"So the idea is to improve the communication system in Nigeria and also to use it in networking schools, government offices and other agencies."

Goni also called for the convergence of video, data and telecom-

munication under one umbrella saying that the change is a natural phenomenon and it is a global trend.

He said government should hasten the process of harmonising the regulatory bodies such as the Nigerian Communication Commission and National Broadcasting Commission in order to tap the benefits of the sector.



MINISTRY of Science and Technology's Director Planning Research and Policy Analysis Dr Ijeoma Unaogu (Left) and Director, ICT Engr. Wabab Jimoh at the bids opening for the provision of ICT and web portal equipment to the ministry recently.

Galaxy test runs NIMC connectivity infrastructure

By Yunus Abdulhamid

GALAXY Backbone Plc has commenced the testing of the connectivity infrastructure it is rolling out for the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), as part of the National Identity Management system and infrastructure deployment.

The federal government in December 2008, approved the award of N0.689 billion contract to Galaxy Backbone for the Metropolitan Fibre Optic network in Abuja, V-sat connectivity for the National Identity Management Commission offices in the 36 State including Abuja offices, construction of Disaster Recovery Site and provision of Business Connectivity Facilities.

But the implementation of the project was delayed by the sudden drastic drop in exchange rate which at the time of the award of the contract was N116.26, but had depreciated to N149.58 when significant procurement activities were being put in place, the Managing Director of Galaxy Backbone Mr. Jerrand Illokwe said.

He noted that most aspects of the project are at advanced stages of completion but added that, only the States connectivity project has been completed and testing has commenced in some states with respect to certain services which are part of the package.

Mr. Illokwe also said that, the Metropolitan Fibre Optic Network in Abuja which would provide access to the National Identity Database to Government Institutions including Law Agencies like the Police and the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) have been laid with interface Connectivity and will soon be completed.

Sharp to launch advanced 3D panels for mobile gear

SHARP Corp said it plans to start making this year advanced 3D displays for cellphones and other mobile devices that don't require special viewing glasses, betting that demand for 3D images will grow beyond movie theatres and living rooms to portable machines.

Stirring demand for small-sized displays is important for Japanese LCD panel suppliers after they suffered sluggish demand for panels designed for portable electronics due to a sharp slide in mobile phone sales in the domestic market.

Sharp launched mobile phones and PCs equipped with a display that enables users to watch 3D images without glasses in the early 2000s.

But they have not really caught on because of such factors as bulkiness, insufficient brightness and the lack of 3D contents.

Sharp since then has devel-

oped brighter and thinner 3D displays with higher resolution and a touch panel function.

"In the 2D era, contents and infrastructure have spread from movies to homes, and from homes to mobile devices," Sharp Executive Managing Officer Yoshisuke Hasegawa told a news conference on Friday. "We believe the same thing will happen with 3D. Three-dimensional images that mostly inhabit big screens now are about to hit mobile terminals."

Hasegawa, head of Sharp's LCD business, did not disclose a sales target for the new 3D display.

Consumer electronics makers are scrambling to launch 3D TVs this year, hoping the technology will be as big a boost for the industry as the transition to color TVs from black and white.

Panasonic Corp and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd have already released 3D models, while Sony Corp is planning to start offering

3D TVs in June.

But analysts have said the need for special 3D glasses may keep consumers from adopting the technology quickly.

Mobile electronics that let users enjoy 3D images without special glasses have been around for some time, since people tend to watch the display from a fixed distance and with a fixed angle on personal devices such as mobile phones, making it technologically less challenging to offer a 3D function.

Japanese game maker Nintendo Co said last month it planned to launch a new model of its DS handheld game console that allows users to play 3D games without using special glasses.

Hasegawa said the company has already received inquiries on the new product from mobile phone makers and other potential customers, but declined to say if Nintendo is one of them.

China journalist club shuts website after attack

THE Foreign Correspondents Club of China said at the weekend it had shut its website after a burst of hacker attacks, days after attacks on the Yahoo email accounts of some foreign journalists covering China were discovered. "We do not know who is behind the attacks or what their motivation is," the club's board said in an emailed statement explaining it had decided to shut down temporarily the site after two days of "persistent" attacks.

The club has traced the online assault to IP addresses in both China and the U.S., but added that these machines could have been taken over by hackers in other locations.

The hacking was the latest of several recent incidents that have brought to light the Internet vulnerabilities of people or groups whose work may raise hackles in China.

Yahoo email accounts of some journalists and activists whose work relates to China were also compromised in an attack discovered this week, with some users still shut out from their accounts, rights groups and foreign correspondents said.

Google's recent decision to move its Chinese-language search services out of China came after the company discovered it had been the victim of "a sophisticated cyber attack originating from China," and found that the Gmail accounts of dozens of activists connected with China were being compromised.

China's government has said it condemns Internet hacking and was not behind the attacks on Google. Some analysts, however, say such attacks have the hallmarks of a sophisticated organization. Reuters.

IT World

'Nigeria needs \$2.5b ICT investment'

Stories from Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Chairman of the Zinox Group, Mr. Leo Stan Ekeh has called on government to give priority attention to the ICT sector in the interest of the country's development.

He was speaking at the Nigeria Computer Society event. Reacting to the call by well-meaning Nigerians that youth corps members be given a lump sum of N250, 000

after their service year to enable them start a business, the Zinox boss praised the initiative but said it was like placing the cart before the horse. He said what the Government needed to do was to create new and solid foundations for education by providing appropriate ICT infrastructure in schools.

Information Technology, he said, should drive the teaching and learning processes in schools, beginning with the learning environment, the instructional materi-

als, the resource centres, and the e-libraries.

"IT driven education would come cheaper than analogue education and create access and pre-occupation for the millions of children who come to schools from poor homes. These youths are already tech savvy by the time they leave school. All we need to do is put together a scheme that ensures that every graduating student is empowered with a laptop.

"This should apply to all grad-

uates from universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education. The idea should be to harness the energies of a new generation of Nigerians through the vital tools for change.

Only a deliberate and systemic empowerment of the youths can ensure that Nigeria participates gainfully in the unfolding knowledge economy", he said.

The Zinox Chairman said that Nigeria should borrow a leaf from both China and India if the dream

to join the world's top 20 economies by 2020 is to be realized.

He suggested that the Government should invest at least \$2.5b on the empowerment of digital natives and immigrants, young and middle aged persons selected purely on the basis of their proficiency in Information Technology. He said such an investment would yield more dividend in the long run than many of the white elephant projects that are being proposed today.

Glo emerges City People GSM firm of the Year

SECOND national telecoms carrier, Globacom Limited, recently emerged the GSM Company of the Year, at the 13th City People Awards for Excellence held at the Liberty Hall, Lekki, Lagos on Sunday last week.

According to the City People Media Group, organizers of the event, Globacom won the GSM Company of the Year because of its revolutionary role in the telecoms sector. "Globacom has proved itself to be a network to be reckoned with. The company recently landed its submarine cable, Glo 1 in Nigeria and Ghana. It has also pioneered a lot of firsts since it came on board including the crashing of the price of SIM cards to the lowest level in the industry."

"The company also brought in new innovations like 3G Plus, mobile banking, and internet, GPRS, MMS, the Blackberry and Glo Fleet Manager.

Globacom is already rolling out services in some West African countries, beginning with the Republic of Benin," the citation said.

The glamorous event rewards and celebrates worthy Nigerians and corporate citizens who have excelled in their various areas of endeavour.

The 2010 edition recorded a quality attendance with the presence of the Delta State Governor and his wife as well as the Deputy Governor of Osun State, and was witnessed by the Lagos glitterati.

Globacom is Nigeria's Second National Operator (SNO) which provides class telecommunications solutions and offers digital mobile services (GSM), national carrier service (fixed line), international gateway and on-line services.

Visafone slashes tariff on data services

VISAFONE says it has slashed prices of its data services to help extend and encourage internet usage in all segments of society in Nigeria.

Speaking on the new internet package, the Managing Director Mr. R. Balachandran said this is yet another example of customer and pocket friendly pricing from Visafone.

He said "given the superb experience in terms of access, surfing and download speeds that Visafone data subscribers enjoy, this creates irresistible value for data devotees across the spectrum - whether they be corporate users, travelling businessmen, students, dedicated downloaders or casual browsers and email enthusiasts."

Mr. Balachandran further said: "This is the age of data; and mobile internet and mobile broadband provides the fastest and most convenient means of enabling people and countries to go digital.

Coupled with Visafone's accent on customer experience, this makes for a powerful blend of value for every data customer or prospective user."

With the price slash, subscribers can now get a 3G USB modem plus 1 month 24/7 unlimited internet access for N19, 500 and internet modems for as low as N8, 000.



FROM LEFT CEO Etisalat Nigeria, Steven Evans, DG National office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Umar Buba Blind Land, Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs Ibrahim Dikko during a recent visit to Etisalat Nigeria in Lagos.

Globaltouch launches assets tracking solution

VEHICLE and airline tracking solution firm, Globaltouch West Africa Limited, has launched assets tracking softwares in the country, which may help reduce the incident of missing aircrafts and vehicles.

Disclosing this at a forum for airline operators in Abuja at the weekend, managing director of Globaltouch West Africa Limited, Engr. Isaiah Mohammed stated that because Globaltouch sees security as very paramount in the aviation industry, the company has introduced to Nigeria, a unique service never seen in the history of satellite business in the country.

Mohammed said the solution coming from the stables of Guardian Mobility, its Canadian partners, will apart from making the business of aviation easier; also guarantee the much needed peace of mind that has often been elusive in the aviation business. "We are the first Nigerian-based satellite tracking company; all others are foreign based and expensive. Our data communications solutions is based on satellite technology and our services are provided using a network of 48 satellites operating in a low earth orbit, which is less prone to severe weather disruptions.

"We have partnered with Global-

star, a global leader in the provision of mobile satellite voice and data services to introduce to the Nigerian aviation industry, Guardian Mobility world class solution which offers end-to-end solutions to solve multiple business problems," Mohammed said.

He said the company is building a new dedicated command and control centre in Abuja which besides enabling the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) track the movement of all Nigerian registered aircrafts, it will also allow each operator have its own login and access to its data. Also speaking, Ken Stewart, a representative of Guardian Mobility said the solution will allow the operator to know the status and location of all aircrafts in its fleet at all times as well as set up alarms and receive notifications upon events. In addition, the solution will enhance the generation of useful reports using fleet summary reporting, including hours and distances flown, for maintenance and billing.

He appealed to airline operators in Nigeria to avail themselves of the opportunity provided by Globaltouch West Africa Limited platform.

According to him, Guardian Mobility offers a full range of GPS tracking

and satellite communication solutions for aircraft reporting over the Globalstar satellite network. In 2004, Guardian introduced the first portable GPS tracking device for aircraft, which helped fleet operators know the status and location of their aircraft at any given moment. At a separate forum organized by the company for Fleet management operators recently in Lagos, Mr. Peter Bacon, a technical officer with the satellite firm noted that its flagship product, Globaltrakker has the capability of monitoring and tracking assets anywhere in the West African region as well as parts of the coastal Atlantic and Gulf of Guinea marine region.

"With Globaltrakker you can view and manage assets online through the secure, feature rich, simple to configure web application allowing you to stay in touch 24/7 through sophisticated schedule or event-driven alerting functionality delivered via e-mail or SMS," he assured.

Globaltouch West Africa Limited is licensed by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to offer Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) services and has its gateway in the Northern Nigerian city of Kaduna, North-West Nigeria.



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PROPERTY

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Community builds secondary school

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

COMMUNITY of Rimin Zayam in Toro local government area of Bauchi state has begun the construction of a secondary school through community based effort.

Speaking at the inauguration of the construction of the school, Chairman Parent Teachers Association (PTA) Malam Ja'afar Idris said the people of Rimin Zayam deemed it necessary to build a secondary of its own through community effort.

In his remarks, Management Chairman of the school, Alhaji Sani S. Bawa, who commended the effort of the people in the area towards the construction of the school, said the building of the

school was long overdue saying that the school was temporarily using the classes of the primary school in the area.

According to him, the school has over 820 students and has graduated three sets pointing out that the completion of the project will gulp over N10m, "therefore we want the government and the good people of this area to come to our aid."

On his part, Counsellor representing Mara in Toro local government area, Malam Auwal Jibrin Musa Rimi said the effort the community is making to build a school of its own was quite commendable adding that "It's because of this effort that the Toro local government area promised to help in the project".



A massive commercial complex under construction in the Central Area of Abuja

NBC commissions six classroom blocks in Lagos

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Nigeria Bottling Company (NBC) Plc has commissioned a block of six classrooms it donated to Adeniji Jones Primary School in Ikeja, Lagos.

Speaking at the commissioning, Managing Director of the company, Mr Jim Lafferty said the donation of the six classrooms was in fulfilment of its NBC corporate social responsibility which would go a long way in promoting education in the country.

He enjoined the students to take full advantage of the opportunity of education, which brings everyone on a level playing field and enables them to realize their fullest potentials.

He also advised the Federal government to pay increasing attention to education, saying that is the only way to liberate the country from the shackles of ignorance and poverty.

"A hundred years from now, it will not matter how rich I was,

what kind car I drove, in which house I lived in, but the impact I made in the life of a child will surely be remembered"

Also speaking at the event, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Mrs Sarah Adebisi Sosan commended the company for its commitment to the rapid development of education and its massive investment in educational infrastructure in the state.

According to her, education for all is a responsibility of all, adding that government cannot provide education alone without partnering with the private sector.

The NBC Ikeja Plant Manager, Mr. Aliyu Paiko, amplified the company's desire to invest in the lives of people in the communities where it operates "After contributing to the development of this community through the construction of these classrooms, we shall come back to celebrate the success of the pupils who are now being prepared to help make our country greater."

Africa needs \$80bn to develop infrastructure

DR Oby Ezekwesili, World Bank Vice President has said that Africa would need to invest 80 billion dollars (about N1.1 trillion) annually to meet its infrastructural needs.

"The continent is currently spending 40 billion dollars on infrastructure and therefore, a gap of 40 billion dollars currently exists," Ezekwesili said in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

"If the continent meets its

industrial needs, it could meet its GDP growth by two per cent, increase its productivity by 40 per cent," she added.

She said African leaders must spend prudently to build the needed infrastructure.

"This way, the infrastructural activities would be managed in a way that would attract private sector to public private partnership," she stressed.

Ezekwesili said that if govern-

ments in Africa would spend on building quality infrastructure and have mechanism for maintenance; it would improve the life span of such infrastructure.

She called on African leaders to find ways on how to build road networks to connect all parts of the continent.

She disclosed that the bank was in support of regional projects such as the Lagos-Abidjan road. (NAN)

Lafia solar street lights refuse to work

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE solar powered street lights in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital, have failed to work after all repair works on them.

The lights were installed in 2007 along the Lafia-Akwanga Road in Lafia metropolis as part of the Urban Renewal Programme of Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma. The lights have undergone not less than four replacements since then, but the few that work still cannot shine more than candle light, residents have complained. Daily Trust recalls Governor Gabriel Suswam in the neighbouring Benue State

had said in 2007 that he was not rushing into the provision of street lights in order to avoid been given the type of lights in Lafia for Makurdi, his state capital. The Makurdi lights have proven to be long-lasting.

The last time the lights were worked on was in February, but they newly fixed bulbs have long died. The gateway into Lafia from Akwanga, through the metropolis remains in dark as only a few poles have bulbs that still work.

Road users spoken to say it is unfortunate that the only aspect of the Urban Renewal Programme that has not been abandoned has refused to work after

the job was completed. "How sad it is that the only aspect of the Urban Renewal Programme that has been executed cannot work," said a road user who gave his name only as Usman.

He called on the government to wake up to its responsibility by returning the contractor of that project to provide workable street lights, "not these ones that the contractors have provided because they have proven to be fake."

State commissioner for information, Mamman Alakayi was contacted by our correspondent for comments, but he said he was too busy at the moment to make any

meaningful comment.

Daily Trust recalls, however that the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Timothy Anjide has told newsmen recently that the observation that Lafia street lights have refused to work was not correction, since he insisted the lights are working.

The state government rose recently to sign another contract for the installation of another stretch of street lights which the contractors - Energy Power Tech called "better street lights" to bring aesthetics to Lafia. The contract sum is N218,679,314.93.

Property



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FG spends N497m on Unical projects

THE Federal Government has spent about N497 million on projects in the University of Calabar, Mr Eyo Eyo, the university's Director of Physical Planning, has said.

Eyo made this known on Friday in Calabar while conducting newsmen around the project sites.

He said that the Federal Government released the funds for the projects last year.

Eyo said that N323.54 million was released for building an administrative block, while N163 million was released for the construction of the College of Medical Sciences building.

He also said that the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts was constructed at the cost of N9.75 million.

However, Eyo said that the university, through its

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR), funded the construction of a lecture block for the Post-Graduate School at the cost of N208 million.

A Computer Laboratory Centre was also built at the cost of N52.4 million, he added.

A 500-seat pavilion for educational services was built with N24.3 million; a day care centre was constructed by the Unical Women Association with N20.35 million, while the extension of the Medical Centre cost N22.22 million.

Earlier, Prof. Bassey Asuquo, the university's Vice-Chancellor, said that during the 24th and 25th Combined Convocation between April 8 and 10, 11,887 graduates would receive their degrees.

Asuquo said that honorary degrees would be conferred on Dr Ngozi Iweala, the Managing Director of World Bank, and Gov. Godswill Akpabio of Akwa Ibom and Gov. Liyel Imoke of Cross River.

He said that during the convocation ceremony, some major projects would be inaugurated.

"During the convocation, some major projects on the campus will be inaugurated.

"One major project that will be inaugurated is our Administrative Block," he said.

Asuquo said that about 80 per cent of the projects were executed with the university's internally generated funds, while the Federal Government executed the remaining 20 per cent. (NAN)

Renovation of sickle cell centre to gulp N18m

THE renovation of the Sickle Cell Centre, Benin will cost the Edo Government N18 million, the Commissioner for Health, Dr Moses Momoh has said.

The government, he said, has also awarded contracts worth N200 million for the supply of medical equipment and materials needed in government hospitals, including the Sickle Cell Centre.

Momoh made the disclosures on Wednesday in Benin, when members of Board of the Sickle Cell Centre, visited him.

The Health Commissioner described sickle cell anemia as an ailment of ignorance, which is avoidable and preventable if intending couples could make effort to medically investigate their genotype

before engaging in marriages.

He lamented the long years of infrastructural decay in the health sector, and described it as horrible and monumental, noting that the sickle cell centre is no exception.

The commissioner expressed the hope that the situation will be reversed, as budgetary allocations were made in the 2010

budget to address the issues.

The board Chairman, Dr Oshose Ohenhen, listed the problems of the centre to include lack of equipment, inadequate staff strength and irregular water supply.

The chairman pledged their preparedness to reposition the centre to achieve the purpose for which it was established. (NAN)

FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, KATSINA

Murtala Muhammed Way
(Jibia Bypass) P.M.B 2121 Katsina

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER

The Federal Medical Centre, Katsina is desirous of undertaking the following projects under its 2010 capital projects. In view of the above, the Centre is inviting competent and interested companies for pre-qualification to carry out the projects as follows:-

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Construction of ring road
- Construction of wards
- Rehabilitation of street lights
- Procurements / Installation of office furniture

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested pre-qualification bidders must submit the following documents.

- Evidence of incorporation or Business name registration
- Registration with federal medical centre, Katsina
- Company audited account for three years
- Evidence of tax clearance certificate for three years
- Evidence of financial capability and Banking support
- Experience/technical qualification and experience of key personnel
- Similar projects executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry
- Equipment and technology capacity
- Annual turnover
- VAT Registration and evidence of past VAT remittances
- Payment of non-refundable processing fee = N= 10,000.00 per lot

The pre-qualification document must be in sealed envelop and clearly marked

"PRE-QUALIFICATION OF TENDERS"

The pre-qualification document shall be returned to Federal Medical Centre, Katsina within three weeks of this publication. The documents will be opened on the same day by 2.00pm at the Federal Medical Centre, Katsina premises.

NB: This is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering will be applied only to companies that have been pre-qualified and found capable of executing the projects.

Signed:
MEDICAL DIRECTOR



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH NATIONAL MALARIA CONTROL PROGRAMME

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE EXECUTION OF MDGs-DRG FUNDED PROCUREMENT OF LONG LASTING INSECTICIDAL NETS IN RESPECT OF 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS

- The Federal Republic of Nigeria through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) intends to provide funds for the National Malaria Control Programme to procure Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs) for States with identified net gaps.
- The National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) now invites interested and reputable Contractors, Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Suppliers with the relevant experience and good track record for:

PRE-QUALIFICATION

LOT: Long Lasting Insecticidal-Treated Nets

PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Certificate of Registration With Corporate Affairs Commission
- Evidence of Contributory Pension Scheme for Staff
- Evidence of Current Registration with NAFDAC
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years
- Evidence of Current Good Manufacturing Practice with full details of in-house quality control (QC) facilities
- Evidence that the product offered is recommended under the World Health Organization Pesticide Evaluation Scheme (WHOPES) (contract or full approval)
- Evidence of VAT Registration and remittance
- Evidence of Experience with similar jobs in the last three (3) years in Nigeria or other tropical countries. Name(s) of client(s), contract sum(s) should be provided
- Statement of installed manufacturing capacity
- Evidence of manufacturing facilities and their locations
- Evidence of financial capacity to handle the job and bank reference
- Evidence of current registration with Regulatory Authority in the country of manufacture
- Manufacturer's Authorization for Distributors/suppliers of items being marketed
- Foreign Manufacturers should provide names and addresses of Local Representatives in Nigeria
- Company profile and organizational structure with names and qualification(s) of key personnel

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The complete pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in an envelope, sealed and marked at the top right hand corner "PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT FOR THE SUPPLY OF LLINs" and addressed to:

The National Coordinator
National Malaria Control Programme
1st Floor Orji Uzor Kalu House,
1st Avenue Shehu Shagari Way,
Central Area, Abuja

The complete pre-qualification documents should be deposited in the Tender Box in the Conference Room, National Malaria Control Programme, 1st Floor Orji Uzor Kalu House, 1st Avenue Shehu Shagari Way, Central Area, Abuja at or before 12 noon, 19th April, 2010. Opening of the submitted documents will take place at 12.00 noon, 19th April, 2010 in the presence of the Bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the Conference Room of the National Malaria Control Programme, Abuja. Late submissions will be rejected. Bidders should note that only pre-qualified companies would be invited to bid for this procurement. The National Malaria Control Programme reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification documents.

Signed
National Coordinator

Property



property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Senator builds N50m health centre

THE Chairman, Senate Committee on Water, Sen. Bassey Ewa-Henshaw, says he has spent about N50 million to build a health centre in Ikot Edem Udu in Akpabuyo L.G.A of the state.

Ewa-Henshaw, who disclosed this in Calabar on Saturday at an interactive session with newsmen, said the project would be ready for inauguration next week.

The senator, representing Southern Senatorial District of Cross River, said he had set aside about N30.4

million to empower youths in the 76 wards of the senatorial district.

"We have tried to identify two people in each of the 76 wards who have genuine needs and desire to acquire vocational skills such as tailoring, hair-dressing, welding, aqua culture among others.

"I try as much as possible to encourage anyone who has ideas on how to set up something that he can do on a sustainable basis," he said.

Ewa-Henshaw said that the criteria for selection was that the leaders in each ward would nominate "two people who are not members of the executive and who have genuine need to establish themselves.

He said the gesture was aimed at raising the standard of living of his people, adding that plans were ongoing to build five computer centres in Calabar South, Biase, Bakassi and Akpabuyo Local Government areas of the state. (NAN)

Institute says too many quacks in architecture

MRS. Ramatu Aliyu, Chairman, Nigeria Institute of Architects, said on Tuesday in Abuja that there were "too many quacks in the architectural profession in the Federal Capital Territory."

Ramatu was speaking at the quarterly general meeting of the Institute in the FCT.

She described the situation as "scandalous", and called on members to fight the menace and rid the profession of such criminals.

She cautioned members of the Institute against certifying jobs performed by such quacks.

"We must all work toward protecting the integrity of architecture in Nigeria," he said.

We must all work toward protecting the integrity of architecture in Nigeria



A well designed bungalow nearing completion in Jabai, Abuja

FCTA inaugurates technical c'ttees on mast erection

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Abuja Metropolitan Management Council (AMMC) has inaugurated a committee to look into the process of mast installation in the Federal Capital Territory. The Committee whose memberships were drawn from the Department of Development Control and Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) was inaugurated by the Co-ordinator, Prof. Sani Mashi.

A press statement signed by Development Control Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Josie Mudahsiru stated that Prof. Mashi said setting up a committee of this nature has become

necessary because of the advent of Global System of Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) which has thrown up a lot of challenges for the Council with the responsibility of granting approval for mast installation.

Prof. Mashi said that Nigerian Communication Commission and the Federal Capital Territory Administration are partners in progress and as such should work together to ensure that activities of telecommunication operators can be controlled.

According to the Co-ordinator, 226 sites were identified for installation of masts and out of the 226, 186 have been committed into use. Despite this large number, demands for

permits are still pouring in, "so the activities of these people need to be properly coordinated."

The Chairman of the Committee, Engr. Augustine Nwaulune said the Nigerian Telecommunication Operators had to provide their own infrastructure as infrastructure for telecom was not existing at the advent of GSM.

Engr. Augustin said it wasn't the wish of the operators to be operating the way they are operating now as it is more expensive. He urged the Team to be committed and to harness the capabilities of all the necessary agencies in order to succeed.

'Real estate did well in the last 50years'

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

A renowned industrialist and Asoju Oba of Lagos, Chief Molade Okoya-Thomas has given a pass mark to real estate business in the last 50years when Nigeria attained independence.

He said the business has grown exponen-

tially and has continued to bring food on the tables of Nigerians.

He disclosed this in Lagos at the 10th edition of the Home & Office Exhibition organized by the Alero Edu led Public Relations Agency, PR distinction and NTA Properties Investment Company Ltd a subsidiary of NTA.

In his word, "the real estate business has witnessed a boom in the last 50years, as properties have sprung up in choice areas all over Nigeria. And this in turn has created job opportunities for different players we find in the Home & Office Exhibition today such as interior decorators, furniture makers, dealers in house finishing materials, electronic

dealers, mortgage institutions and so on."

He advocated increased government and private sector partnership in order to grow the sector to an enviable proportion.

According to him, the exhibition is a forum that would encourage private sector to continue to have sense of belonging in the Nigeria's economic environment.

Inside Politics

Nasarawa guber: I'm relying on PDP guidelines, not endorsements – Al-Makura

Few days after traditional rulers in Nasarawa State endorsed Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma for second term in controversial circumstances, a business mogul and party chieftain, Alhaji Umaru Tanko Al-Makura joined the race for Nasarawa State Government House. In this interview, he says he is relying on the yet to be released PDP guidelines for 2011, and not the endorsement of anyone.

Excerpts:

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

Sir, what motivated you to run for the governorship seat of Nasarawa State?

I am motivated by the desire to touch the lives of the people of Nasarawa State. I want to build on a foundation or improve on the foundation already laid to improve on the living condition and the social well being of my people.

When one looks at Nasarawa in comparison to other states, it stares you in the face that the state is lagging behind. But this is not as a result of lack of funds and the human capital that could turn the state around. One fails to understand the slow pace of development in a state. If you compare Nasarawa to states like Ekiti, Zangara, Ebonyi, Gombe and Bayelsa which were created on the same day, you will shed tears at the disparity in terms of physical development, human development and the benefits of democracy.

Why did you choose to come out this time when Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, from the same zone with you, is seeking a second term in office?

Political aspiration or competition for public office should not be seen as enmity or antagonism. It should not be seen to breed bad blood. We are in a democracy and people including me, have the fundamental rights to determine what they can do within the ambits of the law. To start with, the incumbent governor is someone I hold in high esteem. I respect him so much because he happens to be one of our elders; he happens to be one time deputy governor of the old Plateau State who is supposed to enjoy the respect of all by virtue of his age and experience in public life. But it stops at that. When it comes to the issue of service delivery; the issue of performance and handling the delicate situation of enhancing the people's living condition, there is no hard and fast rule for second term.

In fact second term is not justifiable if the first term is anything but impressive. Yes the constitution provides for second term but it is not justifiable in certain circumstances. So as long as the constitution gives everybody the privilege to contest, the sentiment of coming from the same zone, or the same party does not even arise. What is important is for the incumbent to justify his quest for second term. I am not trying to make negative comment here. I am a decent politician. But if like I said earlier, we compare what is happening in our state and other states, and if it is this pace that we will continue into the second term, I am of the opinion that the second term may not be anything to write home about, and the earlier one comes out to aspire, to challenge, to compete with the bid for second term, the better the hope of the people for a god future.

You joined the race barely a few days after emirs and chiefs of your zone passed a controversial declaration announcing that "there is no vacancy in Government House" in 2011. Don't you think of the implication that your emir, Alhaji Mustahpa Agwai (of Lafia) who signed a communiqué to that effect might think you have no respect for his wishes?

In the first place, the Emir of Lafia is a well respected person not only in Lafia, but beyond the borders of this state. Besides that, I am magnanimously endowed or favoured by the emir for the appointment of a very important and vital traditional title of Lafia – and that is Sarkin Dawaki Mai Tutan Lafia. So for you to ask me a question with regard to probing into certain decisions he has taken; I think it is not fair. However, I will venture to give a little light to this. As far as I am concerned, my coming out to aspire even after the stakeholders' decision contained in that communiqué should not be seen or misconstrued as standing against the wish of the emir. This office I am aspiring for is public office, and as such, it is the prerogative of not only the proactive politicians, but the entire population. And like you know, the stakeholders' communiqué, even though it is from my zone, cannot be



ALHAJI Umaru Tanko Al-Makura

substituted with the preponderance of wishes of the entire electorate of Nasarawa.

I don't begrudge that endorsement, I don't begrudge that support for the governor. Any group can come up to say it wants to endorse Tanko Al-Makura for governor of Nasarawa State.

I will also expect anybody with

democratic instinct and propensity, to consider that as normal in a democracy. There is no bad blood. It is not like I am blocking the emir's wish but I am trying to show my love for the emir and for Nasarawa State by my desire to bring a change to the snail-speed development taking place in the state.

Shekarau urges ANPP supporters to remain steadfast

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano State has advised supporters of the ANPP in Benue to remain committed to the party to ensure its success in next year's general election.

Shekarau made the appeal on Saturday in Makurdi, while addressing ANPP members in the state.

He said he was in Benue to attend a marriage ceremony and felt that it would be inappropriate to "just sneak in and sneak out of the State".

He commended ANPP supporters in the State for their perseverance in spite of what he called "the plot by the powers-that-be to liquidate the party".

"I am proud of your commitment to the party; the contributions you have made for the sustenance of the party is known by all of us and at the appropriate time, you will hear from us," he said.

Shekarau advised the party members not to allow the decision of a few members of the party to leave the party, to dampen their spirit and that they should continue to work to sustain the party.

"So, those who have given up the fight, we wish them luck because there is honour in being principled, there is honour in being committed to a cause," he said.

Shekarau made reference to late Malam Aminu Kano, who he said lived an honourable life and earned honour "even in death".

"We have seen in this country those who occupied exalted offices but can hardly show their faces in their villages after leaving office," he said.

The governor assured the party supporters of a bright future for the party, adding "ANPP is still much around and very much on ground".

He said the party was there before others joined and would continue to remain.

Also speaking, Prof. Daniel Saror, former ANPP Senator and the party's governorship candidate in the April 14, 2007 general elections, said the party was prepared to field candidates in all the posts in next year's elections.

The duo later held a closed doors session with other caucus members of the party in the state in attendance. (NAN)

PDP shocked by death of two Gombe Senators

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has described the death of Senator Tawar Umbi Wada and Senator Kawu Peto Dukku, both from Gombe State as sad.

PDP National Publicity Secretary Prof. Rufai

Ahmed Alkali expressed shock over the death of the two politicians at what he described as 'this critical period in the nation's history'.

Alkali said: "The National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent

Ogbulafor has received with shock the sad news of the sudden death of two distinguished Senators from Gombe State, Senators Tawar Umbi Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku.

"The demise of these two gentlemen and patriots, coming at the peak of

their great service to our dear fatherland is indeed saddening.

"On behalf of the entire members of the National Working Committee (NWC), Prince Ogbulafor wishes to extend our heartfelt condolence to the President of the Sen-

ate, all Senators, His Excellency Governor Danjuma Goje, the government and people of Gombe State and all the families of the deceased over these painful losses. May the Almighty God grant their souls eternal rest (Amen)," he added.

Inside Politics

Zamfara PDP crisis deepens

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna & Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE leadership crisis in Zamfara State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) deepened at the weekend as a group loyal to executive committee which was dissolved last year accused Deputy National Chairman of the Party Dr. Bello Haliru of fuelling the crisis.

The group said it still recognises Alhaji Namadi Ango as the state chairman of the PDP even as some members of the 'old' PDP have warned Ango to stop parading himself as the state chairman of the party.

After a meeting in Kaduna yesterday, the group loyal to Ango urged the national leadership of the PDP to call Dr. Haliru to order.

According to a communiqué signed by Alhaji Ahmed Suleiman Leda and Alhaji Abdullahi Mohammed, the aggrieved party men also resolved to set up a 12 man working committee to liaise with the national secretariat for a possible resolution of the crisis.

They resolved that all elective positions, including the governorship should be open to all eligible members of the party in the 2011 elections. The group also said it is determined to canvass that 60 percent of elective positions should be left to mem-

bers who had spent five years in the party.

A vote of confidence was also passed on Alhaji Namadi Ango, the Zamfara State chairman of PDP 'for his patience and diligent handling of the party's affairs.'

When contacted, Dr. Muhammad said it will be sub judice for him to give any comment because the matter of the Zamfara PDP is before the court. Party members loyal to Alhaji Ango had earlier sued the national leadership of the party for authorising the dissolution of the state exco after the defection of Governor Mamuda Aliyu Shinkafi from the ANPP to the PDP.

Meanwhile members of the 'old PDP' have warned Alhaji Namadi Ango to stop parading himself as the state chairman of the party or face appropriate disciplinary action.

A communiqué signed by three party elders Colonel Bala Mande, Ambassador Adamu Umar and Siddi Dakitakwas after a meeting in Gusau at the weekend, said the Kaduna meeting called by Ango is aimed at dividing the party.

The communiqué said Ango's actions were in complete disrespect to the party's constitution, and an affront to the legally established leadership at the national level. The communiqué read in part: "His actions

are also subversive and aimed at undermining the duly constituted authority of the party in the state, thereby bringing the party into disrepute".

According to the communiqué, Namadi Ango is acting alone and on his own; he is not associated with any leader of the party at the state and national levels. The elders called on him to immediately desist from what they called his 'misadventures' and that if he refuses to do so, the state executive committee would investigate his antiparty activities and take appropriate disciplinary action against him.

The party elders further explained that Ango's claim to the party's chairmanship in the state is in defiance of the resolution of the National Executive Committee which dissolved the state, local governments and ward excos on January 8th, 2009 in the presence of President Umar Yar'adua, the then Vice President Goodluck Jonathan and other national and zonal leaders of the party when Governor Shinkafi decamped to PDP in Gusau.

The elders said following the dissolution of the party structures in the state, PDP national headquarters approved the conduct of another election on September 26th to 30th, which saw the emergence of Alhaji Ibrahim Mallaha as the state chairman.



GOVERNOR Mamuda Aliyu Shinkafi

PDP will capture Kebbi again in 2011, Ogbulafor says

By Muideen Olaniyi

NATIONAL Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Prince Vincent Ogbulafor has expressed confidence that the PDP will 'capture' Kebbi State in next year's general election.

Last year, Ogbulafor had vowed that PDP will capture Lagos and Kano, two states controlled by the Action Congress (AC) and All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) respectively.

Ogbulafor was speaking over the weekend when a delegation of Kebbi State chapter of PDP led by a former governor of the state and immediate past Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Alhaji Adamu Aliero paid him a solidarity visit.

The PDP National Chairman, who said the crisis rocking the Kebbi State chapter of the party would be resolved when the state governor returns from foreign trip this week, said the state will remain

under the control of the PDP.

Ogbulafor also said that following the death of the Kebbi State PDP Chairman Barr. Kassim Baura in November 2009, the Deputy Chairman Alhaji Suleiman Nasiha is the right person to take charge of the affairs of the party in acting capacity until a new Chairman is elected.

Ogbulafor pleaded with PDP members in the state to embrace peace, keep faith in the effort of the National Working Committee (NWC) to reconcile them and

cooperate with the governor as well as the Acting PDP Chairman for God's sake.

He said: "I want to assure you that your governor is cooperating with NWC of our party. I also want to assure you that the immediate past governor and the immediate past FCT Minister has been in close touch with this party as well.

"I understand that your governor is not in the country, in the next one week when he returns, your problems will be totally resolved,"

he added.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation Alhaji Aliero told the party's leadership that the Kebbi State PDP would continue to abide by the decision of the NWC, pointing out that they believed in the supremacy of the party.

Aliero, who said the intervention of the NWC in his home state has helped to maintain peace in the party, gave assurance that the state PDP would continue to support Ogbulafor-led leadership.

Youths warn against plan to remove Ogbulafor

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

SOME group of youths from Northern Nigeria have said that plan to remove Prince Vincent Ogbulafor as the National Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is aimed at replacing him with a northerner so that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan can contest the 2011 election.

The PDP Youth Political Forum in conjunction with PDP Women Vanguard at the end of their meeting in Kano warned against any attempt to remove

Ogbulafor.

"We wish to express our total support for the Ogbulafor-led PDP exco. We support the manner they have been running the affairs of the party. Any attempt to replace Ogbulafor with a northerner to pave way for Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to contest in 2011 will not be in the interest of the party," Comrade Abdullahi Romeo and Faiza Aliyu Ringim said in a statement issued at the end of the meeting.

The group urged all PDP

stakeholders to ensure that Ogbulafor is allowed to serve out his time, adding that any plot to sacrifice him to achieve whatever objective is capable of dividing the ruling party ahead of the 2011 election.

Jonathan, who became Acting President due to President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's illness is said to be warming up for the presidency in 2011 under the umbrella of PDP even though the party said recently that the presidency will be retained in the north until 2015.

Ex-lawmaker denies quitting ANPP

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

FORMER member House of Representative Alhaji Barau Jibril yesterday denied decamping from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) to the newly registered Congress for Progressive Change (CPC).

The ex-lawmaker who represented Tarauni Local Government in Kano State at the Federal legislature from 1999-2007 was recently said to have joined CPC.

Alhaji Barau who spoke through a close associate, Alhaji Bala Abdu, said the allegation might have been sponsored by some politicians who want to

destroy his political carrier, saying that Jibril would not leave ANPP and he will contest for the Senatorial seat of Kano North.

Bala noted that though the CPC has one of the most trusted Nigerians, General Muhammad Buhari, the party is populated with former elected officials who failed to provide effective leadership while in office.

He said some disgruntled people in CPC wouldn't allow the party to make any positive impact in Kano politics as well as the entire nation. He said CPC would soon face leadership crisis between the Buhari Organisation (TBO) and those currently piloting the affairs of the party.

SPORT

**Nigeria's
Ikeke
retains title**

Page 52



How to beat Argentina, by Lagerback

SUPER Eagles technical adviser Lars Lagerback has been speaking about his World Cup history with Argentina.

While managing his native Sweden in 2002, Lagerback progressed from the group stage at the expense of Marcelo Bielsa's Argentina team.

Despite Argentina's rocky road to South Africa there are few teams at the World Cup which would have been happy to face them so early on. However, Lagerback feels confident leading his Nigeria team in the Group B contest.

"Every day people ask me about Argentina and the good players they have. It is a question worth asking but we don't have to be afraid. I know how to stop Argentina and I will be passing on this message to my players."

Lagerback was keen to focus on his own group of players rather than the opposition.

"We must believe in our own players and give them the push they need to do well."

Lagerback, one of two Swedes who will be managing an African

“We will not be going all out to attack Argentina.”

nation at the World Cup, is looking to adapt the Nigerians to his tried and tested method of playing.

"We will not be going all out to attack Argentina. We will look to keep a clean sheet, frustrate them and then beat them."

The head coach's confidence is also echoed by Peterside Idah, former Nigeria goalkeeper and now respected pundit.

"Argentina has good forwards but they're not so good in defence. If we put pressure on them then we can score many goals."



LARS Lagerback

Yobo: Eagles not world class

SUPER Eagles assistant captain Joseph Yobo has said the team is lacking in world-class talent as they head towards the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

The Everton centre-back says the side are going through a transition period, with younger players being blooded into the side, and he admits they have not reached the heights fans would expect.

After being asked why no Nigerian players had been in contention for the recent African Footballer of the Year award that was won by Didier Drogba of Cote d'Ivoire, Yobo was cutting in his assessment.

"It is a transition, you know?" he told Hi magazine. "I think that the players we have now, to be realistic, are not meeting up to standard. I think to win that award you have to be a key player either a top striker or a midfielder."

The 29-year-old, who will be a key man for the Super Eagles if fit in South Africa, has also praised the view of new Nigeria coach Lars Lagerback that no player is guaranteed a place in the country's squad for the World Cup.

Yobo feels the comment from the Swede might well be a spur for those players who may have been coasting ahead of the tournament.

"I think there is going to be a good response. It gives everybody the opportunity to prove himself, those that are not playing work hard, and it is also a good challenge for the players - as they now need to get used to one another," Yobo said.



SUPER Eagles assistant captain Joseph Yobo believe that the team is lacking in world-class talent as they head towards the World Cup.

Nigeria's Ikeke outpoints Marks to retain title

KINGSLEY Ikeke successfully defended his North American Boxing Association super middleweight title Saturday night, overcoming a sluggish start to

outpoint Zane Marks in a split decision.

Two judges scored the fight 97-93 for Ikeke, while the other had it a 95-95 draw.

Ikeke, who won the NABA's 168-pound title with a split decision over Mark Woolnough in August in the same ring at the Emerald Queen Casino, won his fourth straight fight to improve to 27-3-0.

"It was a good fight, but I didn't think it would (go all 10 rounds)," said Ikeke, a Nigerian who lives in Los Angeles. "I didn't know he was left-handed."

Marks (17-5) came out the aggressor, immediately getting Ikeke onto the ropes and commanding the first round. Marks maintained his edge in the second before Ikeke seemed to find a groove and take the lead in attacking through the fourth, fifth and sixth.

"I was ready for that," Ikeke said of Marks' early aggressive-

ness.

Marks was back in the ring for the first time in three years after dealing with what he said were personal issues.

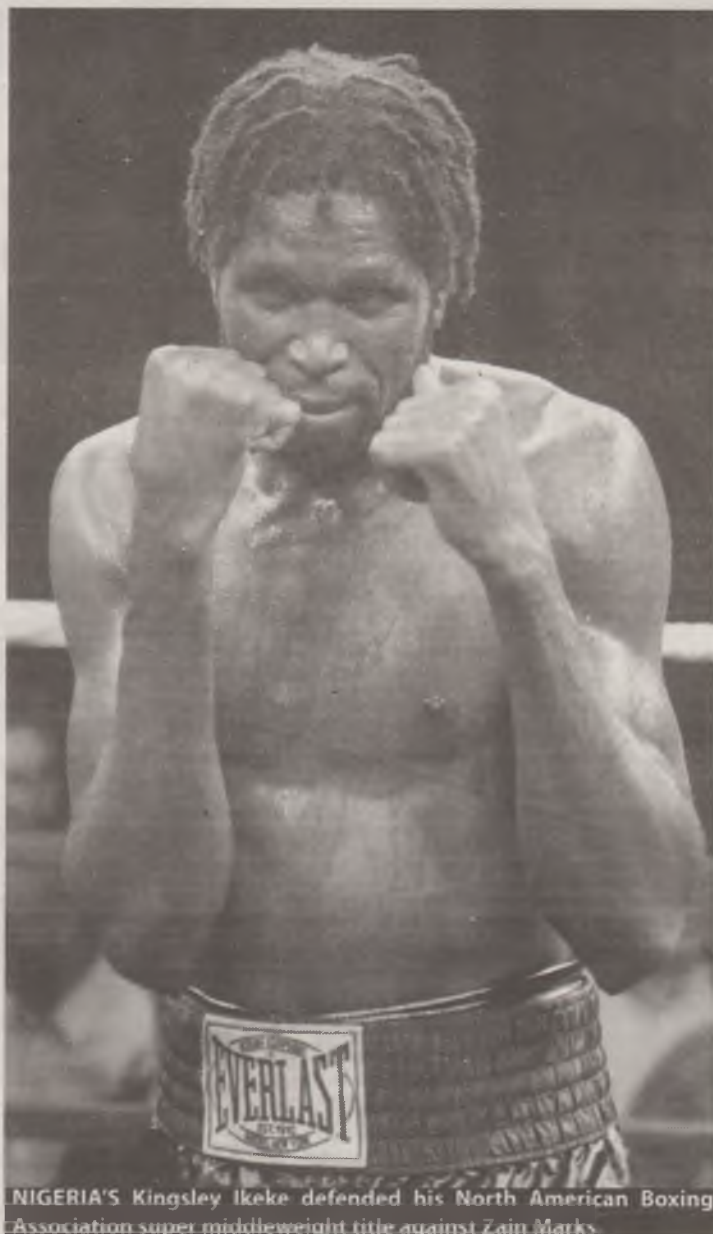
"I felt great in the early rounds, but then my legs felt tired in the later rounds," Marks said.

Marks, from Scotland, stumbled once in the sixth round, but stayed up and came out swinging again before Ikeke slowed him down again with a right jab and a left uppercut.

In fact, whenever Marks would seem to be tiring in the later rounds, taking punches on the ropes from Ikeke, he would work out of it, find a burst of energy and go back on the attack, such as the moment in the seventh round when he landed a hard right hook to Ikeke's head and got him covering up on the ropes.

"I was keeping busy, and he was just playing," Ikeke said. "I had the fight in control by the seventh round."

“In fact, whenever Marks would seem to be tiring in the later rounds, taking punches on the ropes from Ikeke, he would work out of it, find a burst of energy and go back on the attack, such as the moment in the seventh round.



NIGERIA'S Kingsley Ikeke defended his North American Boxing Association super middleweight title against Zane Marks.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

SABON GARI DUTSE RESIDENTS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990

Trustees

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Den Goji Adamu | President |
| 2. Ugbe-Agorom Anastasia | Secretary |
| 3. Moses Eioji | Member |
| 4. Isaac Toba | Member |
| 5. Abaka Micheal | Member |
| 6. Okodua Julius | Member |
| 7. Moses Apeh | Member |
| 8. John Ogbale | Member |
| 9. Abdulhali Gusuwah | Member |
| 10. Ogbaje Yakubu | Member |

Aims & Objectives

- To cater for the welfare of members
- To foster unity amongst members

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed,
Eseigbe & Eseigbe & Co.
08077450004, 08038480088

PHILARCH EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990 (as amended) Cap 20 LFN 2004.

The trustees are;

- Arch. Phillip Ephraim
- Mr. Samson Phillip Adamu
- Mrs. Jummai Ayedime Okoriko
- Barr. Ezra Yakusak

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To empower widows, and the less privileged through skill acquisition.
- To help them fulfill and achieve their purpose and destiny in life.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
Barr. Ezra Yakusak
Solicitor

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known and called GBADAMOSI BISOLA BOLANLE henceforth wish to be known and called MRS. AKINWUMI BISOLA BOLANLE. General public take note.

I, formerly called MISS CHIOMA OKEKE which to be addressed as MRS CHIOMA A. ONWUGBALU. All former documents remains valid.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS TALATU MAMMAN wish to be known and addressed as MRS TALATU M. SADOH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as IJEOMA LINDA IHEANACHO now to be known as MRS. IJEOMA LINDA OBAYI as a result of marriage. Former documents remain valid. Immigration and general public note.

I formerly known as MISS EZEORA CELINA CHINEDU now wish to be called MRS. EZIKE CELINA CHINEDU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly ABDUSALAM IDRIS, Now wish to be called as MOHAMMED BABANGIDA IDRIS, All former documents remain valid, general public should take note

I, formerly called MARYAM ISMA'IL USMAN now wish to be addressed as MRS MARYAM ISMA'IL USMAN. All former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly known and address as JUMMAI MUSA AGAJI, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS JUMMAI ABUBAKAR BOBBO. All former documents remain valid. Borno State Ministry of Education, Teaching Service Board and general public should take note.

I, formerly MISS SHERIFAT AUDU now to be MRS SHERIFAT KAMALDEEN. All former documents remain valid. N.Y.S.C and general public take note.

Auction! Auction!! Auction!!!

This is to inform the general public that there will be public Auction Sales of Vehicles forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The Vehicles include

- IVECO TRUCK
- DAF TRUCK
- MAN TRUCK
- BADGES
- COTONOU BOATS

And a lot of others.

Venue: Warri - Delta State. Yanagoo - Bayelsa State., Portharcourt - Rivers State.

Date: 7th April, 2010

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Signed on behalf of all the appointed Auctioneers.
King Alfred Diette Spiiff (OFR) 08033099228
Alh. Bashiru Musa Sati LL.B (Hons) 08037924884

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original C OF O belonging to one AIHAJI IBRAHIM AHMED of KOFAR DUMI KIRFI CLOSE, New G.R.A Bauchi is missing issued by ministry of land & survey bauchi NO.BA/556, Any efforts made to trace the said C of O proved abortive

I formerly MISS NDUKWE JOHN OGADIMMA now to be MRS DIKACHI-IGBOKWE JENNIFER OGADIMMA DIVINA (NEE NDUKWE JOHN). All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



SUPER Eagles Team B players line up before their African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers against Niger Republic in Kano.

Boxing technical chief to train coaches

THE newly appointed Technical Adviser of the Nigeria Boxing Federation (NBF) Idika Nsofor, said he would use his experience to ensure the standard of amateur boxing improved in the country.

Speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos on Saturday, Nsofor said his work would not be confined to the boxers alone as he hoped to train coaches as well.

He said his observation of Nigerian boxers revealed that they were technically deficient in several areas, which he hoped to correct.

"I saw the skill in our young boxers but they needed to be technically balanced so that they can have solid foundation. Other areas needed to be polished as well."

Nsofor said he had been in discussion with the Director General of the National Sports Commission (NSC) for the past two years and was asked to draw up a programme for the boxers and coaches before his employment.

"My work will not only be with the boxers but the technical crew will also benefit from my experience because I don't want any area to be left out," he said.

He said he would organise regular coaching clinics for the technical officials, who would use the skill acquired to train their fighters adequately.

Kaffo, NTTF plan coaching course

A Level One course for table tennis coaches opens next week in Lagos, former African female singles champion, Bose Kaffo, said.

Kaffo said that the course billed to hold at the National Institute for Sports (NISports) from April 7 to April 10, was open to clubs and state table tennis associations' coaches.

She said the course would be held in conjunction with the Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF).

The former champion said the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) would provide the resource persons as the course was aimed at updating the knowledge of participants.

She said the course would be practical, adding that participants would be examined at the end of the training.

Kaffo, who initiated the programme, said it was one of her contributions to the development of table tennis in the country.

She said she was determined to contribute positively to the game as she believed that there were table tennis talents waiting to be discovered for further grooming.

Borno FA boss blames NFF for CHAN ouster

By Orkula Shaagee

BORNO State Football Association Chairman, Babagana Kalli yesterday blamed the Nigeria Football Federation for Eagles Team B ouster in the qualifiers for the African Nations Championship (CHAN).

He noted that the Federation would have allowed the coaches to go round the country and pick players for the team, rather than the approach adopted by the NFF, by asking clubs to nominate players.

"The whole thing started with

the clamour by Nigerians for some players to be used for the competition; but unfortunately the procedure used for the selection of the players was faulty from the onset.

"Rather than the coach going round the premier league clubs to select his players the NFF gave directives to clubs to nominate their best players for the national team. Most clubs ended up sending their best strikers which left the teams with no midfield and defence.

"This actually was the genesis of the poor and uncoordinated performance of the team against

Niger Republic," he noted.

According to him, if the coaches had been given the opportunity to go round for the team selection the performance of the team will have been better.

"The defeat doesn't mean that we don't have good players in the national league, but it is mainly due to the problem of poor selection of players.

"The way forward is for the NFF to allow the coach go round and do his own selection for players in different departments of the game in future," he said.

Consequently, Kalli urged the

NFF to give free hand to members of the Eagles Team B technical crew if they expect any positive result from the team.

An assemblage of local players drawn from clubs in the Nigeria Premier League two weeks ago lost the slot to the African Nations Championship to Niger Republic after a 2-0 defeat in Niamey and a scoreless draw in Kano.

He blamed the lost to poor selection by the coaching crew led by Daniel Amokachi.

"The coach must have a free hand to select and groom his team well ahead of time," Kalli stated.

AJC: Madueke, seven others make second round

EIGHT Nigerian players qualified into the second round of the African Junior Championship (AJC) which got underway yesterday at the National Stadium in Abuja.

The line-up of six boys and two girls see off their first round opponents in the singles events with Nonso Madueke topping

the cards.

The 1,056-ranked wildcard entrant qualified alongside three other boys in the U-16 category, namely Christopher Edward, Samuel Omoile and Umaru Balami.

Mohammed Mohammed and Emmanuel Idoko also qualified

for the second round of the U-14 category.

Similarly, Jennifer Ifediagwu and Sarah Adegoke buried the disappointment of the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Junior Circuit Warm Up event by scraping through to the next round in the girls U-16 event.

The line-up of six boys and two girls see off their first round opponents

Wolfsburg wallop Hoffenheim

GERMAN champions Wolfsburg rekindled their hopes of European football next season with a 4-0 home win against Hoffenheim yesterday.

Super Eagles striker Chinedu Obasi, who came on as a second half substitute failed to make any impact in the game, while his compatriot, Obafemi Martins saw the entire match from the dugout.

Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko scored a double which put him joint top of the Bundesliga scorers list as his team sit ninth in the table, 16 points behind leaders Bayern Munich with five games remaining.

Dzeko opened after 25 minutes, before Italian World Cup winner Andrea Barzagli claimed the hosts' second six minutes into the second half with Bosnian midfielder Zvezdan Misimovic netting the third on 74.

Dzeko put the game beyond doubt with his second a minute later as his 18th Bundesliga goal of the season put him joint top with Schalke's Kevin Kuranyi and Bayer Leverkusen's Stefan Kiessling.

Wolfsburg, who have won six of their past seven Bundesliga ties, could still qualify for the Europa League, as they trail just five points off the fifth spot in the league.

They are still in the running in this season's Europa League as they host English side Fulham in the quarter-finals with a 2-1 deficit this week.

Hoffenheim, meanwhile, suffered their fifth defeat since January leaving them rooted in 11th with 34 points, as their coach Ralf Rangnick battles to save his job.

In Sunday's late game, Hamburg could only muster a goalless draw at home against second-from-bottom Hanover, as they remain sixth in the table with just 14 points since the return from the winter break.

Bayern Munich strengthened their title credentials on Saturday with a crucial 2-1 win at Bundesliga rivals Schalke as the Bavarians opened up a one-point lead.

After their Champions League quarter-final comeback against Manchester United in midweek Bayern proved their staying power as they scored twice in as many minutes midway through the first half to stun their rivals, who last won the title in 1958.

Bayern now have 59 points from their 29 games to 58 for Schalke.



HANNOVER 96's goalkeeper Florian Fromlowitz saves a ball next to Hamburg SV's Ruud van Nistelrooy, right, during their German Bundesliga match in Hamburg, yesterday.

Frenchman Franck Ribery netted his fourth goal of the season as Bayern won at the Veltins Arena for the second time in ten days, adding to their German Cup success, to shrug off recent league losses to Frankfurt and Stuttgart.

Bayern coach Louis van Gaal was delighted after Thomas Mueller's goal, just 70 seconds after Ribery's opener, proved enough for full points with Kuranyi's header scant consolation for Schalke.

"We are leaders and still in three competitions - even down to ten men (Bayern had Hamit Altintop send off) I was not worried as I knew Schalke would struggle to

produce," insisted the Dutchman.

Ribery, starting a league match for the first time since February 28 after an injury-plagued season, snaffled the opener with a right-foot shot after good work from Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Mueller made it 2-0 after home defender Rafinha could only clear as far as Altintop, who fed Mueller for a neat finish.

Schalke coach Felix Magath, who led Bayern to two domestic doubles before his 2007 sacking, was unable to conjure a recovery though Germany international Kuranyi did reduce the arrears with his 18th goal of the season.

Magath is hoping to win the title with a third different club having shocked Bayern - and the rest of the country - by leading unfashionable Wolfsburg to the crown last season.

Title aspirants Bayer Leverkusen went down 3-2 at Eintracht Frankfurt despite a brace for Kiessling.

Elsewhere, Dortmund took advantage of Leverkusen's fourth loss in a month to close the gap on third place - worth a Champions League qualifying round slot - to a point with a 2-1 win over Werder Bremen while Stuttgart are up to seventh after a 2-1 success over Borussia Moenchengladbach.

'Tiger faces testing week'

TIGER Woods's renowned focus will be put to its greatest test since the death of his father when he returns to golf at next week's U.S. Masters, according to Vijay Singh's former mental coach.

Dr Joe Parent, who helped Fijian Singh become world number one in 2004, believes Woods is capable of winning a fifth Green Jacket at Augusta National despite his stunning fall from grace since the end of last year.

"Tiger wouldn't have signed up to play in the Masters if he didn't think he was capable of winning," Parent told Reuters.

"The only comparable thing we have is the trauma he went through when his father Earl died in 2006 and the first tournament he played in after that was the U.S. Open at Winged Foot."

Woods missed the cut at Winged Foot, the first time he had failed to qualify for the weekend at a major championship since he turned professional a decade earlier.

"Now Winged Foot is a far less hospitable golf course for a slightly wayward driver of the ball than Augusta, so to compare the two is a little bit like apples and oranges," added Parent.

"But Tiger was still suffering psychologically at that time and he may have thought he was ready and he wasn't. That may be the case here at the Masters, that he thinks he is ready but not quite. We will find out."

Woods, a 14-times major champion who is believed to be the wealthiest sports personality in the world, has not played competitive golf since his private life spectacularly unravelled at the end of last year.

The 34-year-old American took an indefinite break from the game

Woods missed the cut at Winged Foot.

to try to repair his marriage amid tawdry revelations about his extramarital affairs before announcing last month he would return at the Masters.

The greatest challenge at Augusta has always been presented by its heavily contoured and slick greens, and for Parent this will be the critical area for world number one Woods.

"Where the pressure and mental game aspect shows up is around and on the greens," he said.

"If you aren't completely focused and completely committed to those shots it can be a long, long day. That's something that nobody can predict: how ready he is as far as his intensity of focus."

"It's all about where his mind is and how much he can let everything that's off the golf course stay off the golf course, and not encounter the flickerings of hope and fear that many of his colleagues are used to but he hasn't experienced before."

Hopkins beats Jones to scratch 17-year itch

BERNARD Hopkins won a unanimous decision against fellow American Roy Jones Jr. in a tough fight on Saturday night, finally avenging a 1993 defeat in a long-delayed re-match.

There were no knockdowns in a bout that was characterised by caution but punctuated by stoppages for accidental fouls and a near-riot in the ring at the end of the sixth round.

"It was kind of rough," said 45-year-old Hopkins, who improved his record to 51-5-1.

"Roy's a veteran. He was tying

me up. I was tying him up. It was a good fight".

Jones, 54-7, frequently frustrated Hopkins with his effective defense but the 41-year-old rarely showed enough offense to win any of the rounds.

The pattern of each round was similar with each man feinting, Hopkins attempting to bull Jones to the ropes behind a jab and right hand and Jones looking to tie up or counter with short uppercuts inside.

"I was trying to smother him, so he couldn't counter me. He's still got

speed," said Hopkins.

The fight briefly erupted into life at the end of the sixth round.

Jones spun out of a clinch in the corner and landed a short punch to the back of Hopkins' head. Hopkins dropped to his knees and took several minutes to return to his feet.

When the round resumed, Hopkins attacked Jones with a furious flurry and the two men continued to exchange punches as the bell rang.

Both corner teams and security officials entered the ring to separate the fighters and restore order.

Hopkins went down on two other occasions, from another rabbit punch and a low blow, while an accidental head butt in the eleventh round opened a gash on Jones's left eyelid.

The two men first met in the ring when they contested the vacant IBF middleweight title at RFK Stadium in Washington, D.C., in May 1993.

Jones won a unanimous decision and then went on to add titles at super-middleweight, light-heavyweight and heavy-weight.

Vidic: United can't afford to dwell on Chelsea defeat

NEMANJA Vidic admits Manchester United cannot afford to dwell on their potentially devastating defeat against title rivals Chelsea.

Alex Ferguson's team ended a dismal week with a lacklustre 2-1 loss to Chelsea at Old Trafford which left them two points behind the Blues with only five matches to play.

Conceding the title advantage to their closest rivals was the final indignity for United four days after a 2-1 Champions League

the United star out for another two weeks.

With Rooney still sidelined, Bayern will fancy their chances of knocking out United in the second leg on Wednesday and Serbian defender Vidic knows his team-mates must get the Chelsea result out of their minds quickly if they are to avoid a surprise exit.

"We were down after the Bayern game but we cannot afford to be down again," Vidic said.

"We need to get our heads up and face the facts. We have lost two games but we shouldn't feel sorry for ourselves.

"We need to seize the moment and make sure we finish well this season."

Rooney could be back in action by the derby against Manchester City on April 17 and Vidic is confident United will still be in the title race as long as they win their remaining matches.

"Chelsea have just the league and the FA Cup to focus on, which helps them, but if we win all five games then we still have a good chance," he said.

"I hope there will be more twists and turns and there will be more dropped points before the end."

Rooney could be back in action by the derby against Manchester City.

quarter-final first leg defeat at Bayern Munich.

That last minute loss in Germany was made even more painful by the ankle ligament injury suffered by England striker Wayne Rooney which will rule



DIDIER Drogba celebrates his match winner against Manchester United on Saturday.

Ilan gives West Ham glimmer of hope

Aiyegbeni on target

WEST Ham striker Araujo Ilan snatched a last-gasp equaliser to earn his relegation-threatened side a vital 2-2 draw at Everton yesterday.

Gianfranco Zola's side looked certain to suffer a seventh successive defeat when Super Eagles forward Yakubu Aiyegbeni headed Everton into the lead with five minutes remaining at Goodison Park.

But Brazilian substitute Ilan struck with a brilliant diving header less than two minutes later to lift the Hammers one point clear of the relegation zone.

Under-pressure Hammers boss Zola must have feared it wouldn't be his day when Diniyar Bilyaletdinov gave Everton a first-half lead before Egypt striker Mido saw his penalty saved by Tim Howard before the break.

But Manuel Da Costa equalised on the hour and Ilan saved the day after Yakubu's strike.

Third-from-bottom Hull have a game in hand on the Hammers but Zola may feel his luck has changed at last.

It didn't seem that things were looking up when Zola lost Swiss midfielder Valon Behrami to injury during the pre-match warm-up.

Junior Stanislas came in for Behrami as Zola tried to end the club's worst losing run for over 40 years.

West Ham midfielder Scott Parker was in the thick of the action early on as he fired over from a corner and then earned a booking for late challenge on Tim Cahill which will trigger a two-match suspension.

David Moyes' men deservedly took the lead in the 24th minute when Jonathan Spector attempted to head away a Leighton Baines cross but found only Cahill, who nodded back

for Bilyaletdinov to glance in from close range.

After being outplayed for much of the half, Zola's side were handed a potential lifeline as referee Howard Webb ruled that Sylvain Distin's clumsy challenge on Carlton Cole was worthy of a penalty.

Distin was the last man but Webb only showed a yellow card and Everton got out of jail again as Howard plunged to his right to turn away Mido's spot-kick.

Zola must have feared the worst at that point but West Ham gradually gained a foothold in the game in the second half.

They nearly snatched an equaliser when Mark Noble's chip from the edge of the area rattled the cross-bar with Howard beaten.

That seemed to spark Zola's team into life and the visitors drew level on the hour as Everton failed to clear Noble's corner and Da Costa reacted fastest to stab home from close-range.

Everton then felt aggrieved when Webb turned down a penalty appeal after Da Costa chopped down Louis Saha.



AIYEGBENI

Robben back for Old Trafford showdown

DUTCH international star Arjen Robben is in the Bayern Munich squad for his club's Champions League quarter-final return against Manchester United, the Bavarian giants said Sunday.

Bayern, who came from behind to record a 2-1 win in the first leg, had to do without the Dutchman for Saturday's success by the same score at Bundesliga title rivals Schalke as he races to overcome a calf injury.

His club said a final decision on whether he starts at Old Trafford will be taken on the day of the match.

"I hope he will be able to play. But we must wait as his muscles are tired," said coach Louis van Gaal.

Robben's 14 goals this season, despite his fitness problems, have propelled Bayern to the top of the Bundesliga and he is joint top scorer with Mario Gomez and Thomas Mueller.

Van Gaal said he would also be taking central defender Daniel van Buyten to Manchester although he went off after just 20 minutes against Schalke following a collision.

Robben and Van Buyten will be in the treatment room on Monday while the rest of the squad have the day off.

Bayern will be boosted against United by the return from suspension of German international midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger.

GUEST COLUMNIST

By Issa Aremu, mni

Reading the news

“President Umaru Musa Yar’adua’s health condition is nowhere as bad as people are saying”. Thank God for the good news. The real news however is: the news was not official. In fact it was the unofficial breaking news according to the Chief Imam of the Abuja National Mosque Ustaz Musa Mohammed who reportedly disclosed the news after a brief meeting with Yar’adua. Ustaz Mohamed reportedly arrived late for the Maghrib [sunset] prayers because he and three other Muslim clerics went to see Yar’adua at the presidential Villa last Thursday.

There was no basis whatsoever to doubt the veracity of the report according to the Ustaz. The only crisis of confidence arising from his reportage is what the lawyers call *locus standi*. Ustazs are no reporters charged with the naughty task of investigative journalism, no less with the daunting task of investigating the President’s controversial health conditions. Even the State House correspondents are not as upbeat as the Ustazs daringly arrogate to themselves. Of course the Ustaz impresses nobody with his unofficial authoritative posturing on the notorious question of Yar’adua’s health. His revelation might be news worthy to the extent that he further raises the noise level of the notoriety of a simple health challenge. But health news according to the Ustaz is far from being credible from the perspective of governance challenge. The point cannot be overstated. What we have at hand with respect to the health of President Yar’adua is nothing but governance challenge in a democracy. Let nobody therefore appropriate what is purely a national challenge for some parochial end. Privatization of President Yar’adua’s health discourse is unhelpful to his presidency in particular and the nation he once inspired to action through inclusive 7 point agenda and Vision 2020 (whence the vision anyway since 100 days plus ago we have not seen him?). Nigerians of all persuasions did (and indeed still) pray for the President’s recovery. Nigerians of all hues must hear from their President directly or through official media that is certainly exclusive of some select clerics. The histrionics that trailed the expectation of the President at the *Jummat* service two weeks ago were definitely uncalled for. We don’t need to be assured (through some self appointed clerics) of what we daily pray for: which is nothing but President’s recovery. Clerics are no Ministers of Information or Ministers of Special Duties. According to the Chief Imam, they found Yar’adua seated alongside his wife, Hajia Turai, with his Aide-de-Camp [ADC] standing to his left. Pray if the sick President was not with his wife and ADC, who would facilitate his recovery? Who for Allah’s sake did the Ustaz Mohamed expect to meet with Yar’adua? OBJ or T Y Danjuma? That the President was seated with his wife and extended his hand and shook each one of them is NOT news worthy at all. What is news worthy for the nation that prays daily for the president’s recovery is that the recovering President receives audience led by his Vice President, now acting President Goodluck Jonathan in respect of the approved 2010 budget text or Niger delta post amnesty plan (and if you mind my preference,) the final report of the new minimum wage. Again all these are beyond the brief of clerics unless they transform from clerics to some *religiticians* (whatever that means).

Recently both in Nigeria and abroad, religious adherents (not the religions) have done violence to the world

great faiths, namely Islam and Christianity. Jos serial carnages (for as they lasted) were perpetrated through what the late compatriot Dr Bala Uthman rightly described as *manipulation of religion*. But we all know that everything that happened in Plateau, from killings to counter killings of women and children (on all sides of the artificial divides) are the attributes of disbelievers and not believers as we are daily enjoined by the two great faiths. The reported Catholic sex abuse cases in Europe and America are still fresh in mind: “a series of lawsuits, criminal prosecutions and scandals related to sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests and members of religious orders, both under diocesan control and in orders which care for the sick or teach children”. Please let nobody “religiously” appropriate what is purely a national challenge in a democracy in

Nigeria. Democracy is about openness, inclusiveness, transparency and above all official delegations and representations. Clerics are not our official representatives to the Villa. Designated Ministers and accredited media are. Let clerics lead prayers for the nation and President’s recovery which can only be done if they do not for whatever reason arrive late for prayers in their respective mosques. One time Egyptian President, Mohamed Naguib hit the nail on the head when as far back as 1951, he observed that: “Religion is for God; the country is for all”.

Still on the news. I bear witness that what we witnessed last week or so was no ministerial

screening for Nigeria’s urgent development. On the contrary what we witnessed in the Nigeria’s Senate was some high profile screaming and scheming (and if you like) scrambling for posts for self advancement. Again the Senate relied on its notorious doctrine of necessity to do *carry-go* (fast-track?) with scores of Ministers without known portfolios. Everything was left to market forces, as it were. It was total deregulation. Ironically the only time there was some semblance of some regulation was when the former Minister of Information and Communications, Dora Akinluyi mounted the rostrum.

She (by accident or design) came the official time allotted for the Monday special plenary was about expiring. Even the protestations of some senators, could not persuade the Senate President David Mark to extend the Africa Magic platform that was Dora’s outing. Dora has definitely denied, she did not cook for the first lady, Hajia Turai. Fine. We definitely now know what she did not do. But what of what she did for the first lady that makes her to know so much about some cabals? As an observer I bear witness that Dora profited from some cabals (her word please!) in the senate who for whatever reason were bent on seeing her through the ministerial scrambles at all cost. And that is my worry. The cabals (Dora’s rebranded version please) certainly had their way last week. But are the senators aware of the time tested warning by David Broder that “Anybody who wants the Presidency so much that he’ll spend two years organizing and campaigning for it is not to be trusted with the office”. Time will tell who is right: this senate or Dora.

ISSA AREMU (issaaremu@yahoo.com)

SPORTS REPORT



CRISTIANO Ronaldo

Ronaldo: We'll beat Barca, win the league

Cristiano Ronaldo is raising the stakes for Real Madrid’s match against Barcelona by predicting that his Madrid side will not only win the “clasico” game but will go on to take the Spanish league title.

The two rivals are level on points with Madrid ahead on goal difference before next Saturday’s match.

Ronaldo says “we’re going to win the game against Barcelona in the

(Santiago) Bernabeu and that we’re also going to win the league.”

Barcelona completed a record 6-2 victory at the Bernabeu last year on its way to the league crown.

A record 32nd league title is the last trophy available to Madrid, which spent over £250 million (\$363 million) on players last summer, including a record £94 million (\$131 million) on Portugal winger Ronaldo.



ANDREAS Iniesta

Iniesta returns for clasico clash

Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta returned to training yesterday with his team-mates, and is on course to be fit for next weekend’s El Clasico clash.

The 25-year-old resumed a light workout following the Blaugrana’s 4-1 defeat of Athletic Bilbao, which put them three points clear at the summit of the Primera Division.

Iniesta suffered a slight hamstring pull in the 1-0 victory versus Mallorca last weekend, and was forced to sit out the midweek clash with Arsenal in London.

While Iniesta remains a major doubt for the return clash with the Gunners on Tuesday evening, he is expected to take his place in the starting lineup versus Los Blancos at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday.

